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ESSAYS

ON

FASHIONABLE DISEASES.
The dangerous EFFECTS of HOT and CROUDED ROOMS.
The CLOATHING of INVALIDS.
LADY and GENTLEMEN DOCTORS.

And on QUACKS and QUACKERY.

With the genuine PATENT PRESCRIPTIONS of

Dr. JAMES's FEVER POWDER,

TICKELL's ÆTHERIAL SPIRIT, & *GODBOLD's* BALSAM,

Taken from the Rolls in Chancery, and under the Seal of the proper Officers;

And alſo the INGREDIENTS and COMPOSTION of
Many of the moſt celebrated QUACK NOSTRUMS,

As analized by ſeveral of the beſt CHEMISTS in Europe.

By JAMES M. ADAIR,
FORMERLY
M. D.

Member of the Royal Medical Society; Fellow of the Royal College of Phyſicians of Edinburgh; Phyſician to the Commander in Chief of the Leeward Iſlands, and to the Colonial Troops; and one of the Judges of the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas in the Iſland of Antigua.

WITH

A DEDICATION to *Philip Thickneſſe*,

Cenſor-General of Great-Britain, Profeſſor of Empiriciſm, and Noſtrum, Rape, and Murder-Monger to the St. James's Chronicle.

To which is added,

A DRAMATIC DIALOGUE.

Publiſhed for the Benefit of the TIN-MINERS in CORNWALL.

By BENJAMIN GOOSEQUILL, and
PETER PARAGRAPH.

LONDON:
Sold by *T. P. Bateman*,
No. 21, DEVONSHIRE-STREET, QUEEN's-SQUARE.

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Lately published, by the same Author, for the Benefit of the Tin-Miners in Cornwall,

UNANSWERABLE OBJECTIONS to the Abolition of the SLAVE TRADE. With a DEFENCE of the Proprietors of the British Sugar Colonies against certain malignant Charges contained in Letters published by a *Sailor*, and by *Luffman*, *Newton*, &c.

REMARKS on the Dispositions and Characters of the AFRICAN SLAVES; and Means suggested for the Distribution of their Labour; the Regulation of their Habitations, Foods, Cloathing, and Religious Instruction; the Accommodation of the Sick, and Cure of their Diseases; which may be most conducive to render them faithful, obedient, and happy.

ESSAY

ON

FASHIONABLE DISEASES.

And here they are all Bile and Spleen,
The ſtrangeſt Fiſh that e'er were ſeen.

Five times I've purg'd, but I'm ſorry to tell y'
I find the ſame gnawing and wind in my belly.

NEW BATH GUIDE.

FASHION, like its companion *Luxury*, may be conſidered as one of thoſe excreſcences which are attached to national improvement; and which ſo far reſemble the moſs of fruit-trees, and the miſletoe of the oak, as not to be entirely uſeleſs; though they may be occaſionally injurious.

Whilſt one part of a poliſhed nation is aſſiduouſly engaged in cultivating the arts and ſciences, another part is not leſs buſily employed in the invention and regulation of its faſhions.

As ſocieties advance in civilization, the active mind of man, not contented with the means of ſatisfying our natural wants, is anxiouſly employed in creating artificial wants, and inventing the means of their gratification.

When that ſcourge of mankind, *Louis* the XIVth, was induced by vanity and ambition to attempt univerſal empire, his ſubjects were, *pour l'honneur du grand Monarque*, not leſs ſolicitous to extend the language and faſhions of that frivolous nation; and even ſturdy *John Bull*, whilſt his armies and navies triumphed over thoſe of France, deigned to ſubmit to the influence of her faſhions.

By one of thoſe revolutions, however, which are not unfrequent in the affairs of men; whilſt France has of late preſumed to dictate to our Miniſters, ſhe has condeſcended to adopt our faſhions: manifeſt proofs of which frequently occurred to me in that country, and even in the apartments of the firſt lady of that kingdom: How have we benefited by the exchange?

The empire of faſhion has now become univerſal: it is not confined to the decora-

tions

tions of our perſons, or the embelliſhment of our houſes and equipages; but extends to our politics, morals, religion, and even in ſome degree to our ſciences. Men and women of faſhion are ſupereminently diſtinguiſhed from thoſe of *no faſhion*, or *whom no-body knows*.

I do not, however, *entirely* approve of thoſe apparent diſcriminations of national character, merely becauſe they do not ſeem to anſwer the purpoſe for which they were eſtabliſhed; for whilſt people of no rank and ſlender means preſume to intrude on the province of their ſuperiors, by *faſhionably* ruining themſelves, their families, and connections; the pale of diſtinction is likewiſe thrown down by toad-eaters, ſwindlers, and gamblers, who, by keeping *the beſt company*, neceſſarily exalt themſelves to the high prerogative of being *people of faſhion*.

Should any of my faſhionable readers expreſs their ſurpriſe at meeting with a diſſertation on faſhion in a medical eſſay, my reply is ready; that as medicine, as well as ſome other arts, is become ſubject to the empire of faſhion, there can be no impro-

priety in conſidering by what means this has been effected.

Faſhion has long influenced the great and opulent in the choice of their phyſicians, ſurgeons, apothecaries, and midwives; but it is not ſo obvious how it has influenced them alſo in the *choice* of their diſeaſes. This I ſhall endeavour to explain.

Patients are generally prompted by curioſity to enquire of their medical guide, what is their diſeaſe? But an explicit anſwer to the queſtion is not always either convenient or practicable; becauſe the doctor is ſometimes ignorant of it himſelf: inſtead therefore of entering on a learned diſquiſition on the ſubject, or candidly confeſſing his ignorance, which would not be always conſiſtent with good policy; he gratifies his patient by a general term, which may, or may not, be expreſſive of the nature of the diſeaſe.

If both patient and doctor are people of faſhion, this circumſtance is *alone* ſufficient to render the term faſhionable; for as people of faſhion claim an excluſive privilege of having always ſome thing to complain of, ſo the mutual communication of their ailments

ments is often the topic of converſation: the imagination frequently ſuggeſts a ſimilarity of diſeaſe, though none ſuch really exiſts; and thus the term becomes ſoon compleatly faſhionable.

In the latter end of the laſt and beginning of this century, *ſpleen*, vapours, or hyp, was the faſhionable diſeaſe.

The *Princeſs*, afterwards *Queen* Anne, often chagrined and inſulted in her former ſtation, and perplexed and harraſſed in the latter, was frequently ſubject to depreſſion of ſpirits; for which, after the courtly phyſicians had given it a name, they proceeded to preſcribe Rawleigh's confection and pearl cordial. This circumſtance was ſufficient to transfer both the diſeaſe and the remedy to all who had the leaſt pretenſions to rank with perſons of faſhion. In proceſs of time, however, theſe faſhionable and palatable ſhop drams became by repetition too weak; and many of the patients, tired of the expence and inefficacy of the remedy, found a more ready and more powerful ſubſtitute in cloſet cordials and plain Nantz.

Upwards

Upwards of thirty years ago, a treatiſe on nervous diſeaſes was publiſhed by my quondam learned and ingenious preceptor Dr. WHYTT, profeſſor of phyſic, at Edinburgh. Before the publication of this book, people of faſhion had not the leaſt idea that they had nerves; but a faſhionable apothecary of my acquaintance, having caſt his eye over the book, and having been often puzzled by the enquiries of his patients concerning the nature and cauſes of their complaints, derived from thence a hint, by which he readily cut the gordian knot—"*Madam, you are nervous!*" The ſolution was quite ſatisfactory, the term became faſhionable, and ſpleen, vapours, and hyp were forgotten.

Some years after this, Dr. COE wrote a treatiſe on biliary concretions, which turned the tide of faſhion: nerves and nervous diſeaſes were kicked out of doors, and *bilious* became the faſhionable term. How long it will ſtand its ground cannot be determined.

Names or terms, when improperly employed in matters of ſcience, neceſſarily create confuſion and error; but had this faſhionable term been productive of no untoward

toward *practical* conſequences, I ſhould have conſidered any attempt to combat the idea, as unneceſſary and abſurd. But I have obſerved ſo many injurious effects from the adoption of this idea, that I think it my duty to be at ſome pains to point out the danger of it.

In my eſſay on the difficulties of ſtudying medicine, I have hinted at the impropriety of attempting to regulate the evacuations, during health, by the uſe of remedies. I remarked that it will be more ſafe to leave the conſtitution to its own efforts. In no reſpect is health more abuſed than by the abſurd practice of taking purgatives for the preſervation of health, or to remove the occaſional effects of accidental repletion, or ſlight conſtipation of the bowels.

The idea of bleeding and purging every ſpring and fall, to prevent fevers and other diſeaſes, was formerly very general in this country; owing to the ignorance or knavery of barbers and medicaſters, who derived no ſmall benefit from thus diſciplining whole pariſhes. Many of the lower ranks do ſtill ſubmit, with implicit faith, to this deſtructive

tive practice, but it is not ſo general as it was. Another cuſtom now prevails, more injurious, becauſe more univerſal and frequent, which is the repeated uſe of ſalts, magneſia, rhubarb, Anderſon's and James's pills, eſpecially by perſons who either labour under ſome ſlight indiſpoſition, or believe they do. Such practice tends to deſtroy the health they wiſh to preſerve, and to exaſperate the diſeaſe they are taken to remove.

Having made this general obſervation, I return to my ſubject.

From a well-grounded opinion that Bath waters are very beneficial in colics produced by gall-ſtones, and other caſes of *defective* bile, a very conſiderable proportion of the patients who reſort to that place, go with a ſtrong prepoſſeſſion that their complaints are *bilious*; inſomuch that inſtead of my patients giving me a detail of their ſymptoms, by which I might judge of the nature of the diſeaſe, the anſwer generally was, "*Doctor, I am bilious*;" and, on enquiry, I found that they had generally been in the habit of taking medicines to carry off the *ſuppoſed* offenſive bile.

To

To point out the dangerous conſequences of indulging, and acting under, this idea, I ſhall, as briefly as poſſible, relate two caſes, out of many others which have occurred to me.

Some years ago a lady, daughter of an eminent phyſician, and wife to a gentleman more reſpectable from his perſonal character, than *even* by his near relation to a noble family, conſulted me on her caſe.

A former *faſhionable* phyſician,* who had declined practice, ſpent ſome time at this gentleman's country-ſeat. As he had been the family phyſician, the lady conſulted him, as a friend, concerning a complaint of her ſtomach, and he preſcribed her a courſe of purging ſalts, under the idea that the caſe was bilious.

Some weeks after, I was conſulted, and found that ſhe had almoſt daily uſed theſe ſalts; but inſtead of being relieved, was much reduced, with a total loſs of appetite, and extreme oppreſſion after meals; from which very diſtreſsful ſymptom ſhe was in ſome meaſure relieved, either by diſcharging her ſtomach, or a repetition of her purge.

* Sir William Duncan.

I, in vain, attempted to diſſuade my patient from this deſtructive practice, and therefore adviſed that ſome other phyſician might be conſulted. Some difficulty having ariſen concerning the choice, copies of her caſe were ſent to three phyſicians in London. The phyſician who had been ſtrongly recommended by the friend of the family as his ſucceſſor,* deſired the patient might go to town, and put herſelf under his care; but this being, on account of her weakneſs, deemed impracticable, he was prevailed on to viſit her. As we did not agree in our opinion of the caſe, I reſigned the patient totally to his direction: Purging medicines, and large quantities of the acid of lemons, were ordered; and her phyſician left her with a declaration that he expected to find her out of danger in the courſe of two days, when he ſhould viſit her again; but on the morning of that day ſhe died, after having laboured for twenty-four hours under violent convulſions.

Here a trivial complaint, which might have been relieved by a few ſtomach medi-

* The late Sir John Elliot.

cines,

cines, and a courſe of Bath waters, became fatal from injudicious management in the beginning; for I was well aſſured that the diſeaſe was incurable before the lady was viſited by the laſt phyſician; who erred only in his favourable prognoſtic reſpecting the iſſue of a caſe which was beyond the power of medicine, though it is probable the lady's death was precipitated by the adoption of his patron's plan.

A ſingle lady had been for many months in the habit of taking purges, with an expectation of carrying off bile; inſomuch that her ſtomach and bowels, having become, by repetition, inſenſible to the impreſſion of weaker purges, was at length obliged to have recourſe to gamboge pills, by the direction of a very eminent phyſician in London. Her health, conſiderably impaired by this practice, was farther injured by the death of an only ſiſter, and ſhe came to Bath near three years ago to conſult me.

This lady had been ſo accuſtomed to frequent purging, that ſhe experienced the moſt diſtreſsful oppreſſion and ſenſe of fullneſs at the pit of the ſtomach, when ſhe

omitted the uſe of her pills for a day or two: But I having pointed out the danger of purſuing this plan, ſhe deſiſted, and from the uſe of a few warm medicines, aſſiſted by the Bath water, gradually increaſed to five of the largeſt glaſſes daily of the King's Bath pump, this lady left Bath much amended; and by a letter received from her ſome time after, I underſtand that ſhe had not taken any purgative ſince, excepting a little tincture of rhubarb, once only, when indiſpoſed by colic.

Had this lady continued the uſe of theſe violent purgatives, or indeed of any, ſhe would probably have died under complaints ſimilar to thoſe mentioned in the preceding caſe; or have been deſtroyed by an inflammation of the bowels, in conſequence of their inſuperable inſenſibility to the impreſſion of neceſſary means.

The Bath water and other remedies rendered the farther uſe of purges unneceſſary, by ſtrengthening the ſtomach and bowels, and enabling them to perform their offices regularly and ſteadily.

The

The caſes now related afford an irrefragable proof of the dangerous conſequences of indulging in the habitual uſe of drugs, eſpecially thoſe of the purgative kind; and this often on the moſt trivial occaſions; and I am entirely convinced that Anderſon's pills, and James's Analeptic pills, (now the faſhionable remedy) have been more deſtructive to his Majeſty's ſubjects than even the havock of war.

From what I have ſaid, it is manifeſt that I cannot concur in opinion with Dr. CADOGAN, that the daily uſe of even gently opening medicines, or frequent purgatives, is at all adviſeable in the intervals of gout; and I have had ſeveral occaſions to remark very injurious conſequences from the adoption of this habit by gouty patients.

Before I proceed to aſſign my reaſons for believing that the idea of bilious diſeaſes being frequent, is founded in error, it will be proper to conſider the true meaning of the term *bilious*.

Bile is a fluid of a browniſh yellow colour, of a pungent bitter taſte, and of a ſoapy nature, ſeparated by the liver, and diſcharged into

into the bowels a few inches below the inferior orifice of the ſtomach; partly from the liver, and partly from the gall-bladder, which is a kind of repoſitory for the bile, where it undergoes ſome neceſſary changes.

The offices of bile are various:

1ſt. As it is highly alcaleſcent, it corrects any acid tendency the food may have acquired in the ſtomach, either from too great a proportion of vegetable aliment, which is more or leſs of an acid nature, or from ſome defect of the digeſtive powers of the ſtomach.

2dly. As the humours of the body have an alcaleſcent tendency, the bile, by giving that quality to the vegetable food, confers on it ſo much of the animal nature, as to render it fit for performing the office of nutrition.

3dly. As many of the articles of our food are of a tough, glutinous, viſcid nature, and the digeſtive humours of the ſtomach cannot always compleatly aſſimilate them, the bile contributes by its ſoapy quality very much to compleat the neceſſary change.

4thly. By its pungency and ſharpneſs, it ſtimulates the ſecretory veſſels of the bowels, to diſcharge a larger portion of the digeſtive

geſtive humours for the purpoſe of diluting and aſſimilating the vegetable food: it alſo by the ſame power excites the abſorbent veſſels or lacteals to abſorb the fluid nouriſhment or *chyle*, and carry it into the circulation.

5*thly*. It excites the bowels to that neceſſary degree of motion, by which its diſcharges are regularly performed.

Bile may be ſaid to be either too abundant, too ſharp and alcaleſcent, or the reverſe; that is, too ſcanty, or not ſufficiently pungent; and one or other of thoſe conditions muſt take place in any diſeaſe, which is commonly called *bilious*; though I think very improperly, in every caſe where it is deficient. In hot climates, and even during the ſultry weather of our ſummers, the bile may be too ſharp and alcaleſcent, and therefore offenſive to the ſtomach and bowels: But perſons moſt ſubject to thoſe complaints, are chiefly the ſtrong, athletic, and laborious; who are much expoſed to the heat of the ſun, ſuch as ſoldiers, ſeamen, and day-labourers, whoſe conſtitutions being firm and athletic, their vital and circulating powers ſtrong and vigorous, their humours, eſpecially the bile,

have

have a ſtrong alcaleſcent tendency: but even in thoſe perſons, I know from experience, that the bile diſcharged is more frequently an effect than a cauſe of diſeaſe; for though the natural pungency of the bile may be exaſperated by exceſs of heat in fevers, eſpecially in perſons of this habit of body; yet as ſoon as the fever ceaſes, the bile, ſo far from being either too abundant or too acrid, is generally deficient in both reſpects, and continues to be ſo until the patient recovers his health and ſtrength. That ſallowneſs and duſkineſs of complexion, therefore, which we remark in the countenances of perſons recovering from intermitting fevers and agues, and alſo in chronic diſeaſes, and which is often termed *bilious*, is owing to a cauſe with which bile is very little, if at all, connected, any otherwiſe than in conſequence of its deficiency, which, in the language of common ſenſe, cannot be called *bilious*.

Perſons of relaxed, delicate, and irritable habits (and ſuch generally are the perſons of rank and fortune who ſeem to have monopoliſed the term) are ſo far from being affected by exceſs of the bile, that the very

reverſe

reverſe is the caſe; becauſe from the weakneſs of their vital powers, the languor of their circulation, and conſequently the poor and watery ſtate of their blood, the ſecreted humours, the *bile* eſpecially, are much leſs alcaleſcent and pungent than they ought to be.

The bile is often more deficient in quantity and pungency than the reverſe; and this is frequently the reſult of that indolence of life and relaxation of habit moſt frequently to be met with in the wealthy; and is often accompanied by a train of nervous ſymptoms; though there is no doubt but perſons in the inferior ranks of life, who are reduced by indigence, improper diet, or diſeaſe, may alſo labour under this defect of the bile. But without inſiſting on the impropriety of applying the term *bilious* under theſe circumſtances, it will be ſufficient to obſerve, that in ſuch caſes all the remedies directed, are ſuch as are intended to increaſe the quantity and ſharpneſs of this humour: Hence the celebrated Dr. BOERHAAVE preſcribed ox's gall and other bitters in ſuch caſes, as ſubſtitutes to the bile; when they produce a double effect, not only by neutralizing the

ſharp acid generated in weak ſtomachs, which bitters always do; but alſo by rendering the digeſtive humours more alcaleſcent and pungent.

Jaundice, or a bilious tinge of the ſkin, is conſidered as a ſufficient proof of an exceſs of bile; and many patients. eſpecially the ladies, are very much in the habit of conſulting their friends and their Doctors, concerning the colour of their eyes; and by the aid of a depraved imagination, often detect bile as a cauſe where it does not exiſt. Thus, when a lady, having ſpent many hours at a route, almoſt ſuffocated by the hot and tainted air of a ſmall crouded room, is thrown into a temporary fever, and awakes unrefreſhed and diſtreſſed; perhaps not in a very good humour, from a bad run of cards the preceding night; upon conſulting her glaſs, finds her complexion not ſo clear as the preceding day; but unwilling to attribute it to the real cauſe, finds in the bile a more convenient ſubject of blame.

Jaundice, however, is rarely the conſequence of exceſs of bile, but of its deficiency, and only ſhews that it has, by a variety of

of cauſes, been diverted from its natural courſe. But here the means of relief are ſuch as may be beneficial in reſtoring it to its uſual channel, and increaſing its quantity and pungency; and not ſuch as may diſcharge it as abundant or offenſive: therefore, this does not deſerve, ſtrictly ſpeaking, the name of a bilious diſeaſe.

A bilious tinge of the ſkin is not unfrequently the accidental effect of violent anger, the bite of the viper, poiſons, agues, and of nervous or ſpaſmodic colics, owing to the natural paſſages of the bile being ſo blocked up by a temporary conſtriction, that it is diffuſed over the ſurface. This I have more than once obſerved in patients exquiſitely nervous, and in whom there was not the leaſt reaſon to ſuſpect either abundance of bile, or gall-ſtones. In theſe caſes, the ſkin and whites of the eyes have loſt the yellow tinge, when, the ſpaſm being removed, the bile returned into its natural courſe. A doſe of camphor or opium effected a cure; whilſt a purge given in this ſtate of the organs, would have increaſed the yellowneſs.

But there are many diſeaſes accompanied with a ſallowneſs of complexion, often miſtaken for a jaundiced tinge; and this is ſometimes the caſe in perſons who labour under a complication of nervous and hypochondriacal ſymptoms, not unfrequently connected with ill-formed gout: ſuch perſons, under the idea of being bilious, are often too buſy with purgatives, for the abſurd purpoſe of carrying off a cauſe which does not exiſt; and thereby exaſperate all their complaints.

Gall-ſtones, as they are commonly called, are formed by the bile contained in the gall-bladder becoming gradually ſo hardened as to acquire the conſiſtence of yellow wax. This is not ſo frequent a diſeaſe as is generally imagined; but it is eaſily diſtinguiſhed from what are commonly, but falſely, called *bilious* caſes, from the exquiſite and intolerable pains at the pit of the ſtomach; whilſt the gall-ſtones block up the paſſage from the gall-bladder. But this terrible evil is not always accompanied with a bilious tinge of the ſkin, which is indeed often accidental, and unconnected with any fault of the bile.

Even

Even diſeaſes of the liver itſelf, the organ which prepares this humour, do not, ſtrictly ſpeaking, deſerve the name of *bilious*; for yellowneſs of the ſkin, or a diſcharge of bile, are only accidental circumſtances; and ſome of the moſt inveterate diſeaſes of this organ take place without either.

A bitter taſte of the mouth, a browniſh liſt on the tongue, a ſickneſs and ſenſe of oppreſſion at the pit of the ſtomach, are ſuppoſed to be undoubted proofs of offenſive bile in the ſtomach; eſpecially if bile be diſcharged by vomiting: but if we conſider the unnatural medley of foods which are ſwallowed by the rich and luxurious, we may readily account for theſe ſymptoms, without attributing them to the bile; which, had it really exiſted in the ſtomach, would rather have prevented, by its aſſimilating quality, thoſe unnatural ferments, than have promoted them; and indeed this is ſuppoſed to be its peculiar office, after the food is diſcharged into the bowels.

With reſpect to the ſuppoſed *unequivocal* proof of an offenſive ſtate of the bile, from its being diſcharged by vomit, this circumſtance

ſtance merits a diſtinct and more minute conſideration.

Though ſome phyſicians have alledged that bile is always preſent in the ſtomach, and that it is indiſpenſably neceſſary to the digeſtion of the food; yet the majority have doubted, and even denied the fact; and ſome experiments made on brutes, with an expreſs intention to aſcertain the nature of digeſtion, ſeem to contradict it. If bile ever arrives at the ſtomach, it muſt be by a perverted and retrograde motion of the bowels, and contrary to gravity; which, in the ſimplicity of the operations of nature, cannot readily be admitted; for if the wiſe Author of our being had intended that the bile ſhould be depoſited in the ſtomach, it might eaſily have been conveyed directly thither, as, it is ſaid, was found to be the caſe on the diſſection of a man who had been remarkable for a moſt voracious appetite, owing, as it was ſuppoſed, to the bile being conveyed thither directly by a duct.

Some of my patients have aſked me how bile ſhould be diſcharged from the ſtomach, if it were not depoſited there. The anſwer is eaſy.

eaſy. The ſenſation of ſickneſs, if it be ſevere and permanent, promotes a regurgitation of bile into the ſtomach, by inverting the periſtaltic motion of that bowel or inteſtine which is connected with the ſtomach: and hence it ſometimes happens, that when the ſtomach is empty, pure bile is diſcharged by the firſt effort; but this is no evidence of its being the offenſive cauſe of the vomiting, but an accidental effect; neither is a copious diſcharge of bile any evidence of its being in a diſeaſed ſtate.

The moſt healthy perſon on going to ſea, when he becomes ſick, diſcharges, after various efforts, a great quantity of bile, and this for days ſucceſſively: but ſhall we from thence infer that his bile is abundant or acrid? A man in high health receives a blow on his head, by which his brain is injured; he throws up green bile: are we to ſuppoſe that the bile therefore is in fault? Perſons ſubject to nervous head-achs often diſcharge bile; but the effect is accidental, and is in no reſpect connected with a fault of this humour. Perſons, the tone of whoſe ſtomachs is much impaired by intemperance,

and

and other cauſes, after a ſevere fit of heart-burn, diſcharge the contents of the ſtomach ſo extremely ſour, as even to corrode the throat. After a few efforts, the matter thrown up is green: this alſo is attributed to bile; though in truth, if this bile had been conſtantly preſent in the ſtomach, it would have neutralized and corrected this ſharp acid; as we know that ox gall mixed with acids has this effect.

That bile rarely, if ever, paſſes into the ſtomach, unleſs after ſeveral efforts of vomiting, is evident, becauſe as ſoon as it is pumped up, the ſickneſs becomes much more ſevere and diſtreſſing; owing to its unnatural ſtimulus on the nerves of the ſtomach; which had it been a natural and conſtant gueſt there, would not have been the caſe.

To conclude, The idea of bile being a predominant cauſe of diſeaſe is a groſs and vulgar error; and in its conſequences a very injurious one; and I can, from long and extenſive experience, aver, that thoſe evils, which have been attributed to its exceſs, have generally reſulted from its deficiency; and that the idea of carrying off this moſt

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uſeful and ſalutary humour, when it is already too ſcanty, has been often productive of the moſt dangerous and fatal conſequences.

N. B. In the Greek language, the ſame term is uſed to expreſs bile and anger; hence the word *choleric* is applied to perſons of a violent, iraſcible, and reſentful diſpoſition. Were the Britiſh Fair, eſpecially the *Faſhionable*, (whoſe poliſhed education has a manifeſt tendency to regulate, if not almoſt totally annihilate, all the tumultuous paſſions) apprized of this circumſtance, they could not poſſibly conceive that any of their bodily or mental evils originated from, or were connected with, an exceſs of *gall* or *bile*; and inſtead of continuing to adopt it as a *faſhionable diſeaſe*, they would reſign it to the *nymphs* of St. Giles's and Billingſgate.

ESSAY II.

The DANGEROUS EFFECTS *of* HOT *and* CROUDED ROOMS.*

CHAP. I.

FIRE is an element, the nature of which, notwithſtanding the numerous experiments and painful reſearches of philoſophers and chymiſts, is but imperfectly underſtood. It is the moſt univerſal principle, and the moſt powerful agent, in nature; as it pervades all bodies, and reſides in a certain degree even in the coldeſt: heat and flame being only effects of its activity, and cold of its quieſcent ſtate in thoſe bodies.

When united with the principle of inflammability, which reſides in many bodies, thoſe bodies, when fire acts upon them, burſt out into flame; and this flame is ſupported by the external air; which is alſo ſuppoſed to enter copiouſly into the ſubſtance of thoſe bodies during their ſtate of combuſtion.

* See the Author's Natural Hiſtory of the Human Body, book iii. chap. 1. on *Reſpiration*, which will explain the ſubject of this chapter.

Though

Though all bodies in nature are not ſuſceptible of flame, yet all are of heat, in various degrees, generally in proportion to their denſity.

The effects of heat on animal bodies are in proportion to its degree, and perhaps of ſome other circumſtances not yet well aſcertained. In a moderate degree it creates an agreeable ſenſation in the parts with which it comes in contact, quickens the circulation of the blood, and increaſes the ſenſibility of the body. In a degree equal to, or above the heat of the body, it firſt excites and increaſes the powers of the circulation; but ultimately weakens and depreſſes them: Hence it is that bakers, blackſmiths, manufacturers of glaſs, &c. are oppreſſed and eventually much weakened, by the heat of their furnaces, &c. and we know that exceſs of heat *alone* produces dangerous and often fatal fevers; and that, when the impreſſions of cold immediately ſucceed thoſe of heat, a variety of diſeaſes are produced, according to the degrees of each, and other circumſtances.

This ſubject will be conſidered more fully in the next chapter.

CHAP. II.

Effects *of* Noxious Air.

THIS term, when applied to air, implies, that it is injurious to animal life. The maſs of air which ſurrounds this globe to a conſiderable height, and which is called the atmoſphere, ſeems to be a compound of pure air blended with a very large proportion of exhalations from animals, vegetables, minerals, and metals, a conſiderable portion of which probably conſiſts of fixible, inflammable, and other factitious airs, and electric fire; and therefore muſt be more or leſs impure in proportion to the nature and degree of theſe exhalations.

As we are conſtantly and neceſſarily receiving a column of this air into our lungs, for the ſupport of life, it is of conſiderable importance that it ſhould be as free from impurity as poſſible, (for impure it always is in ſome degree) becauſe, when highly contaminated, it is fatal; as is evident from the effects of burning charcoal, experiments with the air-pump, &c.

The

The effects of impure air on the body are various, according to the degree of its impurity. The perſon who remains for ſome time in foul air becomes uneaſy and languid, with head-ach, difficulty of breathing, ſenſe of oppreſſion about the heart, cold ſweat, fainting, &c.

Theſe effects ſhew that the lungs are unable to admit or diſcharge the air with their uſual freedom; that the powers of the heart and circulation are weakened; the energy of the nervous ſyſtem depreſſed and almoſt ſuſpended; and that life will ſoon be totally extinguiſhed.

It may now be proper to enquire what are the chief cauſes of theſe effects; that we may avoid or in ſome meaſure counteract them.

1ſt. *Heat* in exceſs is the cauſe of much inconvenience and danger, as has been remarked in the preceding chapter, even when it is not combined with any other noxious qualities. In no city or quarter of the kingdom are theſe evils ſo frequently or ſeverely felt as at Bath; ſurrounded as it is by hills, the incumbent atmoſphere is rendered more

warm

warm and moiſt by the ſteams from the hot baths, and the ſmoke from the numerous fires. This atmoſphere is more ſtagnant, or leſs frequently changed there than in cities ſituated on plains or elevated places, and when changed, it is but partially ſo; the colder and heavier air ruſhing into and through the ſtreets, in eddies, eſpecially from the weſt and northern points: hence it is a general complaint that Bath is more windy than any other place.

That city being much reſorted to, moſt of the houſes are occupied by ſtrangers; ſo that conſtant fires in almoſt every apartment, render the houſes exceedingly hot; as is evident from the heat of the party walls, which is ſometimes almoſt intolerable in bed-chambers, eſpecially if the beds are placed near thoſe walls.

The public rooms, though lofty and ſpacious, are nevertheleſs rendered very hot by the numerous fires, and the great number of candles; but eſpecially by the croud of people who reſort to them: but the evil is much increaſed by the frequency of private routs, where

where ſmall rooms are filled by a croud of perſons.*

* It has been to me matter of great ſurprize, that in that city, where the public rooms are ſo commodious, people of faſhion ſhould countenance private meetings or routs, not only to the injury of the public inſtitutions, but manifeſtly of their own healths. Some wags have occaſionally related ſuch circumſtances of the ludicrous and laughable diſtreſſes which have occurred at thoſe meetings, as would have afforded our late *Ariſtophanes* ample materials for a farce: It is my duty to attend *ſolely* to the very *ſerious* conſequences which reſult from ſuch meetings.

In London, the practice of giving routs is more warrantable, not only becauſe there are few, if any, public card-rooms; but the private apartments are much more *ſpacious* and airy than the dining rooms and parlours at Bath; not to mention the bed-chambers, cloſets, and *cupboards*, into which the company are crammed.

Of late another abſurd practice has taken place, the invitation of large parties to private balls and ſuppers; where though much expence is incurred by the entertainer, and great inconvenience ſuſtained by the neighbourhood, ſuch meetings are generally a continued ſcene of tumult and confuſion, and ſuch invalids as are ſo imprudent as to frequent them, ſuffer exceedingly.

As Bath is a place of reſort for the relief of invalids, the hours of meeting at the public rooms are certainly improper for thoſe whoſe accommodation ought chiefly to be conſulted. On ball nights the dancing ought to commence at ſix, and end at ten, ſo that the invalid may retire to reſt by eleven, and riſe early to return to the uſe of the waters; by this means, without breaking into the faſhionable hours of eating, much inconvenience might be avoided; provided the gentlemen and ladies would dreſs before dinner for the ball.

Hence

Hence it is that ſtrangers almoſt generally complain of having caught cold on their going to Bath; and invalids are not only thereby interrupted in the uſe of the waters, but their healths are much impaired; and coughs, rheumatiſms, and fevers are ſuperadded to their other maladies.

Theſe evils are not obviated by the uſe of chairs or other carriages. The common chairs, ſoaked by the rains and night-dews, to which they are perpetually expoſed, inſtead of affording a proper defence againſt the outward air, contribute rather to increaſe the evil; nor are gentlemen's carriages much leſs inconvenient; for beſides their being expoſed in open ſheds, where not only the leather but the lining muſt unavoidably attract and retain damps; perſons who paſs from a hot room, through cold and long paſſages, into the open air, and from thence to their carriages, are ſubject to be *inſtantaneouſly* chilled by the ſudden tranſition from ſuffocating heat to piercing cold.*

* It will occur to the intelligent reader, that many of the preceding remarks are equally applicable to London and every other city in the kingdom.

2dly.

2dly. *Tainted or impure Air.*

To the philoſophical experiments and reſearches of the very ingenious Dr. PRIESTLEY, employed in diſcovering the nature and properties of factitious airs, we are much indebted for a more accurate knowledge of the qualities, and relative degrees of purity, of the atmoſpheric air.

This air, of which it is ſaid not above one-third is really pure, is a very heterogeneous maſs, the greateſt proportion of which is really inimical to animal life.

Beſide this general ſource of contamination, the breath and perſpiration of the human body taint the air we breathe ſo much, that it is generally ſuppoſed that each perſon deſtroys the vivifying principle of a gallon of air in a minute; and hence the neceſſity of frequently ventilating and renewing the air of our apartments, eſpecially if ſmall and crouded.

Of the dangerous and even fatal effects of ſtagnant and tainted air, many inſtances are recorded. Not to mention the memorable inſtance of the *black hole* at Calcutta, others

occurred ſome years ago at the aſſizes at Oxford; in the aſſembly-room at Edinburgh; and about four years ago in London; ſome circumſtances of which merit the attention of the reader:

Eighteen charity children and a ſervant lay in an apartment of a houſe in King-ſtreet, Golden-ſquare: to render the room warmer, they ſhut up the chimney, and uſed every other means to exclude the cold air. Ten of the children, and the ſervant, were ſeized with ſymptoms nearly ſimilar, viz. excruciating pain in the pit of the ſtomach, and in the back, violent head-ach, light headedneſs, and convulſions.

In all theſe inſtances the air became ſo foul, as to threaten immediate deſtruction.

But foul air does not only weaken the ſprings of life, but generates the moſt malignant and contagious diſeaſes.*

Hence it is, that in the cloſe and damp cells of our county jails, the air is ſo noxi-

* A philoſophical critic may alledge that I here confound the ordinary contamination of the air with ſpecific contagion; but in a treatiſe of this kind, accurate diſcrimination is not neceſſary.

ous

ous as to engender a malignant fever, to ſuch a degree, that for one convict that is executed, three die of the jail diſtemper. It is for this reaſon alſo, that unleſs hoſpitals are very judiciouſly conſtructed, and conſtantly ventilated, a much ſmaller proportion of the patients recover, than of thoſe who occupy ſeparate apartments in private houſes.

But independently of theſe and many other well-vouched facts, a ſimple experiment will afford a poſitive proof of what is now alledged.

The moſt neat and delicate perſon, after having paſſed the night in his bed-chamber, does not, when he awakes, diſcover any offenſive ſmell in his room: but if he quits it for a few minutes, and returns to it, after having been in the open air, and before freſh air has been admitted, he will quickly diſcover an eſſential difference.

The ſame happens in public and crouded rooms; but as the offenſive impreſſion may be partly attributed to the blended effluvia from the fires, lights, and perfumes, (the latter of which by the bye are not very

ſalutary) the experiment would not be ſo deciſive.

If theſe evils ariſe from ſtagnant air in apartments frequented by the opulent, nice, and elegant, who have the means and diſpoſition to promote neatneſs and cleanlineſs; how much more injurious muſt ſtagnant air be in the hovels of the indigent, who are deſtitute of all the conveniences, and many of the neceſſaries of life!

The effects of foul air are ſo much the more dangerous, as they do not always manifeſt themſelves immediately in the form of diſeaſe; ſo that when they do, the diſorder is rarely attributed to the right cauſe.

I ſhall endeavour to explain, as briefly and intelligibly as poſſible, the reaſon why the effluvia from human bodies are ſo injurious; as ſuch explanation will point out the means of leſſening, though perhaps not totally obviating the evil.

It has been already remarked in a former eſſay,* that many of the organs which compoſe our wonderfully complicated frame are

* Natural Hiſtory of the Human Body, &c.

employed

employed in diſcharging particles of our food, or the conſtituent parts of our bodies, which by the various exerciſes of its functions are become uſeleſs; and if retained, eſpecially the inflammable air and alcaleſcent particles, would neceſſarily become very noxious, and the cauſes of many diſeaſes. Many of thoſe diſcharges, eſpecially from the ſurface of the body, and from the lungs, are, even in the moſt healthy and delicate perſons, in a ſtate not very remote from putrefaction; but in perſons labouring under diſeaſe, they are of a ſtill more noxious nature; and hence two hints are ſuggeſted, viz. that perſons in health are *not* benefited by ſleeping in the ſame bed with invalids; and that it is peculiarly neceſſary to have the apartments of the ſick well aired and ventilated; and their apparel, eſpecially their linen, frequently changed.

It is ſuppoſed, and I believe juſtly, that more of the offenſive particles of our bodies are ſwept off by the air received into the lungs, than from the whole ſurface of the body beſides; and this is the reaſon why the air we breathe is ſo ſoon contaminated, and

rendered

rendered unfit for the ſupport of life; and this in proportion to the air being leſs pure previouſly to its being inſpired; becauſe, thus tainted, it is ſooner ſaturated with the noxious matter it takes up in the air cells of the lungs, and therefore carries off a ſmaller proportion in a given time: whereas a purer air would unite with, ſuſpend, and diſcharge a larger quantity, and thereby prevent the dangerous effects of their retention. Hence it is that a moderately cold and dry air is the moſt wholeſome.

There is another ſource of tainted or impure air, (beſides many others which I ſhall not enumerate) viz. burning fuel of every kind.

That charcoal taints the air, has long been known to medical men; but it has not been ſo generally ſuſpected, that candles, lamps, wood, turf, and coal fires, foul the air of the apartments in which they are burned.

An eminent and very ingenious phyſician of Bath* has, by applying Dr. PRIESTLEY's

* Dr. FALCONER.

teſt

teſt, found that the fumes of burning wood taint the air more than thoſe of coal, and charcoal more than either; and that the ſmoke of tallow candles is more injurious than that of wax or ſpermaceti.

A ſingle candle is ſuppoſed to conſume a gallon of air in a minute; and therefore a great number of candles burning even in a ſpacious apartment, muſt deſtroy the vivifying principle of a very large column of air in a very ſhort ſpace of time, not only by conſumption, but contamination.

That gentleman diſcovered alſo that the human breath tainted the air more conſiderably in the afternoon, than in the morning: but that the effects of different kinds of paint, and of flowers, on applying the teſt, were leſs apparent than might have been expected, conſidering how noxious both are to the human body.

Fire has, in general, been deemed a purifier of air, and under certain circumſtances it may be ſo in a relative degree; as, by diſſipating the moiſture of cold and damp places, and by rarefying the column of air within

within its influence, it may favour the admiſſion of colder and denſer air.

When *Hippocrates* was conſulted concerning the beſt means of preventing the propagation of a contagious diſeaſe (perhaps the plague) which infeſted a part of Greece, he adviſed, that large fires might be made in a narrow paſs formed by adjoining mountains, for the purpoſe of purifying the air. But it is to be doubted how far the expedient would avail; as the rarefaction produced by the heat would as readily favour a torrent of infected air from one quarter, as of purer air from the other.

Burning bodies certainly abſorb a large quantity of the ſurrounding atmoſphere, and it is to be ſuppoſed the pureſt, as that is a more ſuitable pabulum; but it is equally certain, that they alſo throw off a very large portion of inflammable vapour, by which the atmoſpheric air is tainted: So that fires and all other burning bodies injure the air, not only by conſuming the purer part, but by throwing off foul air.

From what has been ſaid, it appears that a variety of circumſtances conſpire, even in our

our habitations and apartments, to weaken, and almoſt inſenſibly undermine the ſprings of life; but in public meetings and private routs, the evils ariſing from large fires, numerous lights, and crouded rooms, are proportionably increaſed.

A circumſtance which occurred about three years ago, firſt induced me to offer my opinion on this ſubject.

A young lively woman, who came hither to put herſelf under my care, gave a rout, and inſiſted I ſhould be of the party. The room was ſmall, and the company very numerous. We had not been long ſeated at the card tables, before a young man, my partner, after having undergone various changes of countenance, fell into a ſwoon. The doors were thrown open to afford him freſh air, and my patient, who was a delicate invalid, was much injured by the ſudden expoſure to the current of cold air. How the reſt of the company were affected, I had not an opportunity of knowing; but my own feelings and ſufferings for many hours after I retired, convinced me of the dangerous conſequence of ſuch meetings.

On declaring a few days after, to one of my brethren, a man of humour, my reſolution of writing a bitter Philippic againſt routs, he archly replied, "Let them alone, "Doctor, how otherwiſe ſhould *twenty-ſix* "phyſicians ſubſiſt in this place?"

From ſome experiments made, if I recollect aright, by Dr. LETTSOM, on the atmoſpheric vapour of London, collected and condenſed, it was found to contain ſuch a proportion of noxious impregnations, as might reaſonably appear to be a great ſource of the putrid fevers which are prevalent in that great city; and as all cities and towns are, in proportion to their extent, productive of ſimilar exhalations; this circumſtance affords one reaſon why cities are more ſubject to epidemic diſeaſes than the country; and it appears from the bills of mortality, that the proportion of deaths is generally one third greater in the former than the latter. But if to this general cauſe we add the effects of hot and crouded rooms, in which faſhionable perſons paſs many hours almoſt every night, the injurious effects muſt be very great.

It may be alledged that what I have advanced on the effects of bad air, is not confirmed by general experience; for that many perſons have arrived at an healthy old age in air univerſally deemed bad. The ſame argument would be equally cogent in favour of habitual dram-drinking, or any other exceſs; but it will not prove that any of them are inoffenſive; only that certain conſtitutions may, by their natural vigour, counteract the baneful impreſſions; whilſt the bulk of mankind muſt, neceſſarily, under ſimilar circumſtances, have health impaired, and life ſhortened, by their noxious influence.

In certain parts of Eſſex, for inſtance, agues are certainly the effects of bad air; in many parts of the coaſt of Africa, violent and fatal remittent and malignant fevers and fluxes are endemic; and there is ſcarcely a country or climate which has not its peculiar and prevalent diſeaſes, which may be more juſtly attributed to a fault of the air, than to any other probable cauſe: Sound philoſophy does not form an axiom from an exception.

A phyſician in Ireland, convinced of the bad effects of confined air, would not allow his windows to be glazed: his family was free from ailments of any kind; and he himſelf died at the age of 84. His ſon had the windows ſaſhed and glazed, and from that period the family became unhealthy.

I proceed now to point out the means by which theſe evils are to be obviated.

It may be laid down as a ſelf-evident propoſition, that as the extremes of heat and cold are very injurious to the human frame, eſpecially if they rapidly ſucceed each other; ſo it is incumbent on thoſe who wiſh to preſerve health, to endeavour to eſtabliſh ſuch an equality in the temperature of the air they breathe, as to avoid an exceſs of either.

The public rooms of Bath, though very ſpacious and lofty, are, however, ſo heated by fires, lights, and a croud of company, as to be very injurious to thoſe who frequent them.

On the ball nights one door of the ball-room is generally left open, and the chimneys afford a vent, in ſome degree, to the foul

foul and rarefied air. But this is not ſufficient, as is manifeſt to the feelings of every perſon on paſſing into them from the outer rooms. Thoſe who frequent the card rooms have not even the benefit of an open door, unleſs when perſons paſs and repaſs, when the cold air ruſhing in by ſtarts and intervals, is more hurtful than beneficial.

I would therefore propoſe that the caſements of all public rooms, and indeed of private houſes, ſhall be ſo conſtructed, as that the upper diviſion ſhall ſlide down, and that a certain portion of them, according as the room is more or leſs crouded, be always kept open. By thus promoting a free and conſtant circulation of air in every apartment, whether occupied or not, the internal and external air become nearly of an equal temperature; the foul air which is generated in cloſe unoccupied chambers, and which adheres to the walls and furniture, will be carried off before it is accumulated, and the uſual practice of airing rooms, by opening the windows, and warming them with fires, will be leſs, if at all, neceſſary.

But

But without altering the conſtruction of the ſaſh, the heat of the ſitting rooms may be ſafely moderated, and the air corrected, by raiſing a part of the ſaſh moſt diſtant from the fire, and dropping the curtain before it. This expedient will be more neceſſary after dinner, when the air of the room has been tainted by the ſteams of the foods: or, as perſons in this country ſit ſome hours after dinner, it may be proper to retire into another apartment immediately after the diſhes are removed.

The opening of the windows being, even in private houſes, much above the level of our bodies, obviates the objection of its being injurious, by expoſing us to a current of air.

But the truth is, that unleſs the wind ſets ſtrongly from the quarter oppoſite to the open windows, the rarefied and foul air, ruſhing through thoſe apertures, counteracts and reſiſts the column of cold air. This is evident from a ſimple experiment. Apply a burning candle to the upper crevice of the door of a heated room, the flame will tend outwards; if to the bottom crevice, inwards; a proof that whilſt the heated and foul air

ruſhes

ruſhes out at the upper crevice, the colder and purer air enters below. Hence the impropriety of double doors, linings, liſtings, and ſand-bags, all of which, by preventing ſome degree of ventilation, contribute to the evil which I wiſh to obviate.

A thermometer placed in public rooms, and the ſitting rooms of private houſes, would regulate the degree of heat, which in the winter ought rarely to exceed 58 or 60 degrees of *Farenheit*'s thermometer; whereas when this teſt is applied in heated and crouded rooms, it is found to exceed it conſiderably.

To preſerve the healths and amend or confirm the conſtitutions of the riſing generation, is certainly an object of great importance: Therefore, ſchool-rooms and bed-chambers, where a number of young perſons are crouded together, ought not only to be ſpacious, but well ventilated.

I have been induced to make this remark, by a very recent inſtance in Bath, of the dangerous effects of neglecting this precaution; and do moſt earneſtly recommend to the maſters and miſtreſſes of boarding-ſchools,

ſchools, a due attention to this circumſtance; and to parents, that they enquire into the manner in which their children are accommodated in this reſpect. The ſame precaution is neceſſary with regard to nurſeries; eſpecially as ſervants are, in general, both from habit and prejudice, fond of hot and cloſe apartments.

A lady of Bath, who conſulted me, had the caſements of her apartments altered in the manner I have ſuggeſted; and has been benefited by the experiment.

It is obvious, that by theſe expedients for regulating the heat of the rooms, we ſhould not only breathe a purer air, but, in a great meaſure, avoid the dangerous conſequences of ruſhing from heated rooms into cold air; the difference being, in froſty weather, often between 50 and 60 degrees.

All perſons, but eſpecially invalids, when they go into a cloſe room from the open air, ought not to approach the fire immediately; but if cold, bring themſelves gradually to the temperature of the air of the room, which ought rarely to exceed 60. If, from inſpecting the thermometer, which ought to hang

hang at ſome diſtance from the fire, it is found to be conſiderably higher, the fire ought to be leſſened, or more of the upper ſaſhes opened. By ſuch precaution, they will not only avoid the debilitating effects of a ſudden tranſition from extreme cold to great heat, but be leſs affected by the foul air thrown off by the burning fuel. For this reaſon I am, from what I remarked in traverſing the continents of Europe and America, convinced, that ſtoves are preferable to open grates, not only becauſe they diffuſe the heat more equally; but carry off the inflammable air extricated by the fire: Thoſe which are conſtructed by Mr. SHARP, an ingenious tradeſman in London, are much preferable to thoſe which I have met with abroad: The ſmall expence of fuel is a conſideration which merits attention.

I ſhall cloſe this chapter with ſome remarks on our ſleeping apartments.

If we allow only eight hours in the twenty-four to ſleep; though many perſons, eſpecially invalids, ſpend many more hours in their bed-chambers, we ſhall find that during more than one-third of our time, we breathe

the ſame ſtagnant impure air, highly impregnated with noxious effluvia.

Thoſe who have not experienced the benefits reſulting from the expedients I ſhall propoſe, are not conſcious of the evils which proceed from ſleeping in confined and ſmall bed-chambers. But from the inſtances of the fatal effects of air contaminated in a high degree, already mentioned, there is the ſtrongeſt preſumption that in a lower degree, the effects, though more inſidious, muſt nevertheleſs be very injurious.

The great and good Dr. HALES, whoſe ſtudies and experiments were conſtantly directed to the benefit of mankind, recommended a trial of his ventilators in the Savoy and Newgate priſons, in both of which malignant fevers were frequent and fatal: The good effects exceeded the moſt ſanguine expectations; for a very ſmall proportion of the ſick died after the uſe of the ventilators, and a conſtant circulation of air being thereby procured, the contagion ſeems to have been totally extinguiſhed.

The ventilation of our ſhips of war and tranſports, on a ſimilar principle, has contributed

tributed to render them more healthy, and to abate the violence, and leſſen the frequency, of that deſtructive diſeaſe the ſea-ſcurvy.

The worthy and benevolent Mr. HOWARD found that the jails on the continent were entirely free from malignant fever, owing to the apartments in which the priſoners were confined being ſpacious, and conſequently well ventilated.

Theſe circumſtances ſtrongly confirm the benefit to be derived from the expedients I have propoſed; which are only different modes of ventilation; and it may be farther remarked as a collateral proof, that we feel ourſelves lively and alert in a pure air; and Dr. PRIESTLEY tells us, that his feelings and breathing were remarkably pleaſant when he breathed that kind of factitious air which he calls dephlogiſticated, and which is much purer than the common atmoſpheric air: The inference is obvious.

I would therefore, not only from long perſonal experience, but from the information of others to whom I have recommended it, adviſe, that not only invalids, but perſons

in health, admit a free circulation of air in their bed-chambers, by various ways, and in different degrees, according to the ſeaſon of the year and other circumſtances.

During the warm cloſe weather of the ſummer and autumnal months, the chamber door may be left open for a few nights; afterwards a part of the ſaſh may be left open; but the current of air intercepted by the ſhutter; and as the perſon becomes more habituated to free air, the ſhutter alſo may be left open, and the current prevented by dropping a window curtain before it.

In the colder months, a window in an adjoining apartment may be left open, as alſo the door of communication; opening or cloſing the ſhutter, according as the wind does, or does not, blow directly from that quarter. Chimney boards, as very great impediments to a free circulation, ought never to be admitted in any apartment.

Thick curtains cloſely drawn round the bed are very injurious; becauſe they not only confine the effluvia thrown off from our bodies whilſt in bed, but intercept the current of pure air.

It

It may be objected, that by the admiſſion of cold air, perſons, eſpecially invalids, would be apt to *catch cold*, as it is commonly called: but ſo far from this being the caſe, I aver, that diſeaſes from this cauſe generally proceed from perſons being expoſed to cold after being previouſly much heated: and ſo far is exceſſive warmth from being conducive to the cure of colds, and their many dangerous conſequences, that they are always exaſperated by hot cloſe apartments, and hot regimen; and therefore the beſt means of preventing diſeaſes from cold, is to avoid the contrary extreme.

Thoſe perſons who have a window open in the bed-chamber, or an adjoining apartment, need not be under any apprehenſion of ſuffering by a current of air being immediately directed upon them whilſt in bed; becauſe, if the upper ſaſh be open, the current will be conſiderably above the level of the bed; but if the lower ſaſh be open, it will be prudent to draw ſo much of the bed curtain as to prevent the wind from blowing upon the perſon in bed. But the danger of catching cold from ſuch current is more apparent

parent than real; for if the head and body be properly covered, there is no hazard; and one advantage of thus admitting air is, that perſons who are in the habit of lying very warm, will by this expedient find themſelves much leſs oppreſſed and heated by a load of bed-clothes; as the lungs, like the funnel of a ſtove, diſcharge the heated and foul air by means of the cool air admitted by every inſpiration.

It may alſo be alledged, that, from the experiments of Dr. INGENHOUZ, night air is noxious; as vegetables in a growing ſtate throw off, in the ſhade, a great quantity of noxious air. But allowing the reſult of theſe experiments to be ſuch as the Doctor has related, it may indeed be an objection to keeping flowers in our apartments, but none to the night air in large cities, where no vegetation goes on.

It will be expected that, inſtead of arguing from general principles, I ſhould adduce inſtances of the ſafety and utility of this innovation; and the expectation is reaſonable: but it would ſwell this eſſay too much to enter into numerous and minute details; I

ſhall

ſhall however mention a few circumſtances, in addition to my remarks on Dr. HALES's ventilators, which will, I hope, carry conviction along with them.

It is an incontrovertible truth that, in general, ſuch perſons as are precluded, by neceſſity, from the indulgence of warm and cloſe rooms; and are deprived even of the benefit of comfortable firing, are more hardy, and enjoy firmer health, than the opulent; though no habits of living can afford an entire exemption from diſeaſe. Hence it is, that though indigence, and pinching want, in many of the lower rank of every ſociety, is a grievous relative evil; yet affluence and luxurious indulgence expoſe us to diſtreſſes of a different kind, and there is nearly a compenſation throughout; the balance being rather in favour of the middle rank in every ſociety.

Of the ſafety of the practice I recommend, my own family affords a manifeſt proof; nor have I ever heard that any of my friends or patients who have made the experiment, have had any reaſon to repent it, but the reverſe.

About ſixteen years ago I attended the late Sir JOHN ASTLEY, whilſt he reſided on his eſtate

eſtate at Everley, in Wiltſhire. This old gentleman, then about 80, lay, during the ſevereſt part of the winter, in a room without fire, and a bed without curtains, and every morning plunged into the cold bath; and had he not, from a ſpirit of obſtinacy, neglected and miſmanaged himſelf when labouring under a complaint not dangerous in its nature, he might have ſurvived ſeveral years longer.

That the admiſſion of cold air into bed-chambers is of uſe in preſerving health, cannot be doubted by any who have read the preceding part of this chapter; for if foul air weakens and deſtroys the ſprings of life, pure air muſt neceſſarily ſupport and invigorate them.

If at any time I neglect to admit air into my bed-chamber before I go to bed, my night is ſpent uncomfortably, I am hot and feveriſh, and I wake diſtreſſed by head-ach, and other diſagreeable feelings. This may be partly attributed to habit; but it affords an irrefragable proof, that cool and pure air is more friendly to the human ſyſtem, than our being immerſed for many hours in the hot

hot and putrefcent vapours exhaled from our own bodies.

Impure air is peculiarly inimical to the nervous fyftem : it relaxes and enfeebles the general habit, and increafes the irritability of the body.

On converfing with a fenfible and ingenious *gentleman* * on this fubject, he informed me that he had for many years laboured under a complication of nervous fymptoms, for which he had obtained no relief from medicine. He at length determined to try the effects of ventilating his chamber in the manner I have mentioned ; and has been benefited thereby beyond expectation.

On my communicating thefe remarks to an eminent phyfician at Bath, he favoured me with the following letter :

" I do not wifh to have my name men-
" tioned in the detail of my cafe ; it will be

* Mr. Lucas, of the York Hotel, at Bath.—If an Univerfity education, very refpectable family connections, urbanity of manners, and integrity of heart, conftitute a *gentleman*, no man has a higher claim to that character than my old friend Mr. Lucas—Many years ago I knew the brother of an Engliſh Peer in Ireland, in the ſame rank of life, and with ſimilar qualifications.

" ſufficient to ſay, that having for many
" years been occaſionally ſubject to palpita-
" tions of the heart, ſhortneſs of breathing,
" great anxiety and depreſſion of ſpirits, uni-
" verſal tremor, and other ſymptoms of the
" kind, uſually called nervous; after trial of
" many medicines of the antiſpaſmodic kind,
" I found nothing ſo effectual as a ſtrict at-
" tention to preſerving a due temperature of
" body during the night, at which time the
" above ſymptoms were moſt apt to recur.
" In order to preſerve this temperature, I
" found it neceſſary to uſe only a moderately
" thin quilt in the ſummer, with an addition
" of a moderately warm blanket in the win-
" ter, and no fire in the room; one window
" of which was kept open all night in the
" ſummer, and the whole of the day in cold
" weather. This regimen produced ſound
" and refreſhing ſleep, and almoſt an entire
" exemption from many troubleſome ſymp-
" toms of a ſimilar kind that frequently came
" on in the day time."

Other inſtances have occurred to me of a ſimilar kind; but not ſo deciſive of the efficacy of this practice: Theſe caſes, however, will,

I flatter myſelf, encourage invalids, thoſe eſpecially who labour under nervous complaints, to give a fair trial to means which are likely to contribute ſo much to their eaſe and comfort.

Many perſons who labour under chronic diſeaſes, are diſtreſſed by an irregular fever, which, from the impure air they breathe for many hours in bed, is moſt troubleſome in the night. I know, from experience, that it is much abated, and ſometimes entirely removed, by the admiſſion of cool air; and the ſlumbers of the invalid become leſs interrupted, and much more refreſhing. To ſuch as labour under catarrhal coughs, which often terminate in conſumption, to ſuch alſo as labour under this diſeaſe in an advanced ſtate, and to the aſthmatic, this mode has been ſingularly beneficial.

Connected with this ſubject is the circumſtance of adapting our cloathing to the ſeaſons of the year, or rather the relative degrees of heat and cold in this variable unſtable climate; I have therefore conſidered this ſubject in the next chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

IT is evident that cloathing ought to be accommodated to different ages, habits of life, climate, ſeaſon, and ſtate of health; and it is propoſed to conſider this important ſubject in thoſe different points of view.

As nature has provided all other animals with various defences of hair, wool, feathers, or ſcales, by which they may reſiſt the noxious impreſſions of different elements; ſo inſtinct has dictated to man, even in his ſavage ſtate, the neceſſity of covering, in proportion to the inclemency of countries and ſeaſons.

Particular kinds of cloathing are more or leſs warm according to their qualities, as being more or leſs conductors of the electric fluid; or according to their colours; as diſpoſed to refract and abſorb, or reflect and throw off, the rays of light.

In civilized ſocieties, the improvement of arts, the facility with which men are ſupplied with the conveniences and luxuries of life, and the gratification which theſe afford, have diſpoſed mankind to be perhaps too

ſolicitous

ſolicitous about guarding againſt the inclemency of ſeaſons; and hence it is that our bodies being rendered more tender and delicate, and our feelings more acute, we find, that in proportion to the increaſe of luxury, we become leſs hardy; as being more obnoxious to the influence and impreſſion of manifold cauſes of diſeaſe.

As a phyſician cannot, any more than a legiſlator, always effect a proper change in the national manners and morals; ſo it is incumbent on both to eſtabliſh ſuch regulations as the habits of the people will admit of.

It is very much to be regretted, that luxury has in ſome degree extended its influence to all ranks of the community; by which the bodies of the moſt uſeful members of it, the middling and lower ranks, are more enervated than thoſe of their anceſtors.

With reſpect to the *different Periods of Life*, children ſhould, from their birth, be habituated to light cloathing, not only by day, but in bed; for nothing contributes more to form the conſtitution: infants and children are leſs apt to have their perſpiration checked, than perſons who are more advanced

advanced in life; and therefore leſs apt to catch cold. From the ſtage of childhood to the 35th year, the ſtrength of the vital powers, and a briſk circulation, tend very much to keep up an equal perſpiration; but after that period, the force of the circulation being leſſened, the cloathing by day, and the covering by night, ſhould be gradually increaſed; for many of the diſeaſes of advanced life are produced, or exaſperated, by obſtructed perſpiration.

Climate, and *Seaſon of the Year*, ought certainly to have cloathing ſuited to them; but in our unſteady climate it is very difficult to accommodate them to the ſudden changes. Upon the whole, however, after the age of 35, it may be better to exceed, rather than be deficient, in cloathing.

Habit, or *Cuſtom*, always merits great attention. If perſons have been accuſtomed to warm clothing, there will always be hazard in ſudden changes of any kind. Thoſe who clothe, and ſleep warmly, ought not to indulge in hot cloſe rooms during the day, or have fires in their bed-chambers. Thoſe who have reſided long in hot climates, when they

they come into this country, ſhould rather exceed in their cloathing.

With reſpect to *the State of Health:* To perſons of hale conſtitutions, and in high health, very warm cloathing in the day, or covering at night, would be very improper; becauſe their vital powers being ſtrong, and the circulation vigorous, the warmth and ſteady preſpiration on the ſurface and extremities reſiſt the impreſſions of cold or moiſture, unleſs they are very violent.

Such perſons, however, relying too much on the ſtrength of their conſtitutions, often expoſe themſelves imprudently; and as the violence of their diſeaſes is in general in proportion to the vigour of their vital powers; ſo they are frequently rapid in their progreſs and fatal in their termination.

The grand rule is, ſo to regulate our cloathing and covering, that, when we expoſe ourſelves to the external air, the difference of the temperature of the air in both ſituations ſhall be ſuch, that we ſhall not be ſuſceptible of dangerous impreſſions under any inclemency of ſeaſon when we go abroad.

Perſons

Perſons in firm health ought therefore ſo to regulate the temperature within doors, as that it ſhall not exceed fifty-ſix degrees of the thermometer in the winter, ſpring, and autumn; and in the ſummer, bring it as near to that as poſſible, by the admiſſion of freſh air.

But the chief intention of this eſſay is, to offer hints to the *delicate* and *invalid* part of my readers.

Were it happily in our option to attain all the requiſites for forming a firm conſtitution, no man of common ſenſe would ſpare any pains to acquire them: but this is not always in our power. A weakneſs of conſtitution is often hereditary; or it may reſult from diſeaſes, either unavoidably, or the effects of negligence or inattention.

Under ſuch circumſtances, we muſt be content to accommodate ourſelves to our ſituation, and prudently avoid all ſuch extremes as may impair health.

Perſons of delicate and irritable conſtitutions, whoſe vital powers are weak, and circulation languid and unſteady, are very apt to have the perſpiration checked by very

ſlight

ſlight cauſes: This alſo happens to invalids, whoſe complaints are thereby much exaſperated. Until the conſtitution, therefore, has been ſtrengthened, and as it were hardened, by being gradually habituated to air and exerciſe, they ought rather to exceed than be deficient in the quantity of cloathing.

With reſpect to cloathing, ſuch addition ought to be made to it, in cold and damp weather, as to protect the body againſt the ſudden and ſevere impreſſions of either.—That great philoſopher, and good man, Mr. *Boyle*, had cloaks accommodated to different ſeaſons and changes of weather; and invalids ought rather to exceed than be deficient in the warmth of their cloathing, thoſe eſpecially who are ſubject to catarrhal coughs, thoſe whoſe nerves are weak and irritable, and thoſe who are gouty and rheumatic.

Such perſons ought in the beginning of September to wear a flannel waiſtcoat over the ſhirt or ſhift, and, towards the end of October, next the body; taking care to defend the lower limbs by flannel petticoats, or woollen drawers, and ſtockings.

Such perſons as wear flannel next the body are apprehenſive of changing this part of their cloathing, leſt they catch cold, and therefore continue to wear the ſame garment through the winter; and as the warm weather comes on, cut it away by degrees. But this precaution is not only unneceſſary, but to perſons of delicacy muſt be offenſive, and indeed injurious; as thereby a part of the perſpirable matter, accumulated for months, is retained in conſtant contact with the ſurface of the body.

I can however aver, from long perſonal experience, that the under waiſtcoat may be ſafely changed once or twice a week; and as the weather becomes more mild, it may be worn over the linen, and at length totally left off till the ſubſequent autumn.

A very ingenious philoſopher, (Sir BENJAMIN THOMPSON) by a variety of experiments on the relative power of abſorbing moiſture from the atmoſphere, in different ſubſtances; as wool, fur, hair, ſilk, cotton wool, and linen; has found, contrary to what was ſuppoſed would be the reſult, that woollen cloth abſorbed moſt, of theſe ſubſtances,

ſtances, and linen the leaſt; and hence this gentleman juſtly infers the vaſt advantage of a flannel waiſtcoat next the ſkin; and, from perſonal experience, and accurate analogy, he concludes that it would prevent a multitude of diſeaſes; and as it promotes evaporation, inſtead of being too hot for ſummer, he found no inconvenience from it in the hotteſt weather, as it is well known that evaporation produces poſitive cold; hence probably it is that the Eaſt Indians find cotton ſhirts and ſhifts to be more comfortable than linen.

But as, in this unſteady climate, a ſultry day in ſummer is often ſucceeded by one or more that are cold and raw, delicate perſons, who labour under complaints of the breaſt or bowels, or are ſubject to gout or rheumatiſm, ought, as often as ſuch changes take place, to make an addition to their cloathing, ſo long as is neceſſary.

I cannot quit this ſubject without obſerving, that the application of a double, treble, or even quadruple piece of flannel upon the breaſt in coughs, the belly in colics, diarrhœas, &c. and to any of the limbs affected

by rheumatiſm, affords a degree of relief beyond what might be expected; eſpecially if it be ſprinkled with a little lavender water or ſoap liniment, and a moderately hot ſmoothing iron be run over it repeatedly. The powerful determination made by this means from the affected organ is, perhaps, greater than that of a bliſter; and certainly more permanent, as the means may be applied very frequently. The idea of benefit from repeated dying of the flannel, is abſurd.

I hope my fair readers, if any ſuch there be, will pardon me for animadverting on an article of their cloathing, which I have long conſidered as extremely prejudicial, eſpecially to the younger part of the ſex: I mean the *ſtays*. For though the prevailing *faſhion* has allowed them a little more latitude than formerly, this part of their dreſs is ſtill too ſtrait and tight, eſpecially for invalids; many of whoſe complaints are probably produced, but all exaſperated, by this coat (not of mail, but) of whalebone. However, as from cuſtom they require ſome ſupport to their cheſt, I would recommend ſtiffened jackets, or the old boddice, in lieu of ſtays;

and

and, in cold weather, they may be lined with thick flannel.

I am, however, apprehenſive, that this admonition, important as it is, will not make a proper impreſſion on the ladies. To a fine woman, as with an ambitious man, it is not living, but *reigning*, is the object.

It has, of late, been ſuſpected that ſome young men, that they might become more compleatly effeminate, wear ſtays: It is to be hoped that the ladies will not deem them to be either males or females, but of the neuter gender.

The feet ought to be well defended with thick ſhoes.

As cleanlineſs contributes much to health, invalids ought to bathe their feet and legs once a week in warm water; and when it can be conveniently done, uſe a moderately warm bath once a month.

With reſpect to covering whilſt in bed, much will depend on habit. The head ought to be peculiarly well covered whilſt we are in bed, becauſe colds and rheums are thereby prevented; and it is remarked, that as foreigners are more attentive to this circumſtance

cumſtance than we are, they are leſs ſubject to coughs, and their teeth are in general more ſound.

People in health ought never to have their beds warmed; not only becauſe the fumes of the coals are in ſome degree noxious, but becauſe warmth thus applied enervates the body. To avoid the diſagreeable impreſſion of a cold bed, Dr. *Franklin* judiciouſly recommends a cold air bath, by ſtanding naked in the cold for a minute or two before we go into bed, and rubbing the body during that time ſtrongly with a fleſh bruſh; and I will add, that a ſimilar expoſure in a morning, whilſt the whole body is again well rubbed by the fleſh bruſh, will be of great uſe.

But ſuch expedients ought to be very cautiouſly adopted by invalids.

With reſpect to them, airing the ſheets every night before the fire, ſo as to evaporate the perſpiration they may have abſorbed the preceding night, may be of uſe; and is a ſalutary ſubſtitute for bed warming.

If, however, invalids and ſick perſons cannot from cuſtom diſpenſe with bed warming, one or two quarts of ſand, made red hot in

in

an iron pot, and put into the warming pan, will be void of all offenſive ſmell; a cicumſtance of great conſequence to perſons who have weak lungs, or very irritable nerves.

Though a very eminent phyſician ſeems to conſider damp rooms and clothes as ſeldom or never productive of any bad effects; yet the many inſtances of dangerous and fatal conſequences from damp linen and ſheets, to the moſt healthy, ought to make invalids, eſpecially, very careful in thoſe points.

With reſpect to the quantity of bed-clothes, it ought to be ſuch as may, in a reaſonable time after we are in bed, promote an equal but inſenſible perſpiration; and if on awaking, at any time in the night, we find ourſelves ſo much heated as to be obliged to throw a part of them off, we may be aſſured that the quantity is too great: it will be right to cover the legs more warmly than the upper parts of the body, as the circulation in the extremities is more languid, and the warmth of thoſe parts neceſſarily leſs: and as invalids rarely fall aſleep until their is a gentle perſpiration on the extremities, it will be right to procure that as ſoon as poſſible.

ſible. Gouty and rheumatic patients ſometimes find advantage from wearing worſted gauze ſtockings, or flannel ſocks, in bed, during cold weather.

I need not repeat what I have already ſaid on the benefits which muſt accrue from ſleeping in a large and well-aired chamber. When there is a conſtant circulation of freſh air, we are much leſs incommoded by heavy bed-cloaths.

And I cannot avoid expreſſing my ſurprize, that perſons who enjoy good health, and all the advantages of rank, or of affluence (which levels all diſtinctions) tenacious, as they muſt be, of life, and of health, without which life muſt be a burthen; whilſt trifling, fleeting pleaſures engroſs their chief attention, they ſhould not be a little more anxious about the preſervation of this firſt of earthly bleſſings; and that the unhappy invalid ſhould not be more ſolicitous to attain, by proper regimen, in this, and other reſpects, what, notwithſtanding their wealth, medical ſkill alone cannot poſſibly afford them.

CHAP.

ESSAY III.

On the EMPERICISM *of* LADY *and* GENTLEMEN DOCTORS.

Mrs. HARDCASTLE.

Did I not preſcribe for you every day, and weep while the receipt was operating?

TONY LUMPKIN.

Ecod; you had reaſon to weep, for you have been doſing me ever ſince I was born. I have gone through every receipt in the *Family Phyſician* ten times over; and you have thoughts of courſing me through *Quincy* next ſpring.

She Stoops to Conquer, Act 2d.

LADY and Gentlemen Doctors are exceedingly numerous in this age and kingdom. Though they read diſpenſatories and practical compilations with great avidity, they are ſo far from acquiring thereby any real knowledge, that the few ideas ſuch reading affords them are deſtructive, becauſe they are empirical; and ſhould theſe eleemoſynary doctors, fraught with this kind of know-

ledge, undertake the office of being medical preſcribers, their beſt intentions muſt be productive of much evil. Of this ſerious truth there can be no doubt after a careful peruſal of this eſſay.

I have allotted a ſeparate eſſay to my very reſpectable ſiſters and brethren; as it would have been an unpardonable inſult to have put them on a level with the ſordid and ſelfiſh race of noſtrum-mongers; to whom, I am perſuaded, they are very much ſuperior in every liberal, and even *medical*, accompliſhment: though I am apprehenſive, they may be *ſomewhat deficient* in thoſe qualifications which would be neceſſary to their commencing phyſicians, if the branches of knowledge enumerated in the eſſay on the difficulties of ſtudying medicine, are indiſpenſable, as they undoubtedly are.

There ſeems to be a ſtrong propenſity in the human race to form pretenſions to eminence, either with reſpect to knowledge or character; to which, were their claims ſtrictly ſcrutinized, the impoſture might eaſily be detected.

All

All pretenders to ſuch diſtinction are, in the juſt ſenſe of the term, QUACKS.

Hence it is that not only in every ſcience and art; but even in every department of life, quackery prevails.

There are therefore philological, philoſophical, political, theological, critical, juridical, and *medical quacks*; but the proportion of the latter much exceeds the ſum total of all the others. There are alſo not a few inſtances of regal quacks, of which MASSANIELLO, OLIVER CROMWELL, and the late PRETENDER to the Britiſh throne, may be adduced as examples. Thus alſo, in the walks of civil life; the flimſy macaroni affects the manner of the hardy buck; the naval and military fribble plays the martinet and diſciplinarian; the purſe-proud nabob, contractor, and tallow-chandler, ape the conſequence and dignity of the peer; the low-born, half-bred female mimics the elegance and refinement of the woman of birth, education, and faſhion; whilſt the low-bred chamber-maid and footman burleſque the air, manner, and language of the maſter and miſtreſs.

Ladies (or gentlemen) doctors may be defined *ſage* perſonages, who not only phyſick themſelves, but, *without fee or reward*, preſcribe, and often adminiſter their remedies to their friends, dependants, and poor neighbours.*

I proceed to enquire how it has happened that the fair ſex has arrogated to itſelf the privilege of diſcharging the duties of the phyſician and ſurgeon.

As, by their domeſtic avocations, and the neatneſs, delicacy, and tenderneſs, peculiar to the ſex, they have ever been deemed well qualified to diſcharge the duty of nurſes; ſo, from the habit of adminiſtering remedies,

* I have however known ſeveral *doctors* of this deſcription, who were much more alert in preſcribing, than in taking, *even* their own preſcriptions: and I have generally concluded, that their confidence in their own ſkill ſuffered *ſome* abatement when their perſonal ſafety was concerned. Human vanity is much gratified on every occaſion wherein we can evince our ſuperiority, with reſpect either to rank, opulence, or knowledge; and it muſt certainly be a very flattering circumſtance for a *lady* or *gentleman doctor* to poſſeſs, or ſeem to poſſeſs, a degree of ſcientific knowledge by *ſix hours* hard medical ſtudy, the attainment of which coſts a *medical dunce* the labour of as many years.

they

they at length aſſumed a right of preſcribing them: The tranſition was eaſy and natural.

This laudable ambition of filling the firſt department of the medical art is of conſiderable antiquity: for we know that though the Greeks enacted a law prohibiting women from undertaking the practice of phyſick; yet among our Gothick anceſtors, women were the chief phyſicians; and as female emulation is unbounded, they alſo claimed a place at the national councils: and even diſcharged the duties of the *corps diplomatique* with ſingular addreſs and ſucceſs.*

* Beſides the *queen of Sheba*, who was her own plenipotentiary to the *wiſeſt* of kings; the reſult of whoſe royal *téte à téte* has been amply detailed; we have two other inſtances of female plenipo's; one to Charles the XIIth of Sweden, whoſe embaſſy failed, merely for want of gallantry and *politeſſe* in the iron-headed Monarch: but the lady, afterwards Ducheſs of Portſmouth, ſucceeded better with *our* Charles, and, by her *very honourable* connection with that prince, had the pleaſure of contributing greatly to the glory of the *Grand Monarque*. Of the ſuperiority of female talents in the arts of government, our *Elizabeth* and the *Thaleſtris* of the North, afford ſhining examples, and though it has been invidiouſly ſuppoſed that a late race of our kings chiefly derived their embarraſſments and misfortunes from *petticoat* influence; I cannot, for the honour of the ſex, aſſent to the allegation; as we know

Though

Though the female hereditary claim to the medical department has been diſputed, and occaſionally uſurped, by their male rivals, they have never been able totally to ſuperſede them; and it is certain that they have, to this day, retained a conſiderable ſhare of their former medical conſequence.*

In thoſe halcyon days, when men of rank and fortune ſpent the greateſt part of their

that female influence has long predominated in the councils of a neighbouring kingdom, remarkable for the ſubtilty, *rectitude*, and ſucceſs of its political evolutions; as ſome late events abundantly teſtify.

The fair ſex has been no leſs eminent in every other department of erudition and ſcience; ſome have excelled in claſſical learning, criticiſm, hiſtory, and philoſophy; others have evinced ſuperior talents in the fine arts; a few have even entered deeply into the abſtruſe ſpeculations of geometry and metaphyſics; and it is evident that they have a preſcriptive claim to the province of phyſic: The period therefore, is not, perhaps, very remote, when our academical chairs, *that of rhetoric eſpecially*, may be very ably filled by female profeſſors—when ladies ſhall become fellows and even *preſidents* of our colleges of phyſicians—and lady doctors ſuperintend the health of crowned heads. In the *Aſiatic* and *African* courts, there would be *peculiar* propriety in ſuch appointments, as they might miniſter in more than one capacity.

* In ſo much that few of our profeſſion have attained any degree of *eminence* and *celebrity* without the aid of female patronage.

time

time at their country manſions, the miſtreſs of the family neceſſarily commenced a *Lady Bountiful*; and, not contented with the exerciſe of the chemical art in preparing her preſerves and pickles, had recourſe to her family receipts, *all of them infallible*; and from this invaluable ſtore of knowledge, acquired the art of preparing plaiſters, ſalves, and furfeit waters. Theſe ſhe diſpenſed with a liberal hand; and, with much condeſcenſion and humanity, viſited the ſick and lame; and not only diſtributed her remedies, but moſt charitably ſupplied all their wants.

About the middle of the laſt century, indigent men of ſome learning publiſhed medical treatiſes for the uſe of the *Lady Bountifuls* of that day; who, from *Ariſtotle's Maſter-piece*, *Culpepper's Midwifery*, *Salmon's Practice of Phyſick*, and *Every Man his own Phyſician*, made a very *reſpectable* addition to their ſtock of medical knowledge; and it is from the ſame inexhauſtible funds all our noſtrum venders have borrowed their *infallible* remedies.

A revolution in the habits of life has now almoſt extinguiſhed the race of the *Lady Bountifuls*;

Bountifuls; and the poor are now generally reſigned to the care of thoſe humane and *tender-hearted* gentlemen, the pariſh officers.

It would, however, be extremely unjuſt to inſinuate that the preſent age is deficient in charity, for the very reverſe is the caſe; as is evident from the liberal ſubſcriptions to hoſpitals and pauper diſpenſaries, and the readineſs with which diſtreſſed individuals are relieved. The ladies alſo ſtill retain their natural diſpoſition to do good; and, when they retire to their country ſeats, carry with them a medicine cheſt, generally the *refuſe* of a druggiſt's ſhop; and from that magazine, not only phyſic the whole family, but diſpenſe their remedies to all the indigent neighbourhood.

Without preſuming to arraign the motives for this act of charity, I would only obſerve, that in the mode of diſpenſing it, they fall ſhort of their predeceſſors: for, inſtead of following the example of the quondam *Lady Bountifuls*, they commonly take their report of the patient's caſe from an upper ſervant, to whom the adminiſtration of the remedy is intruſted; whilſt the ſupply of

of nouriſhment ordered for the ſick is generally intercepted by the poſtillion or ſtable-boy, who is employed to deliver it.

As the *lady* and *gentlemen doctors*, of this deſcription, are ready to aſſign various reaſons for the exerciſe of their art, I ſhall conſider and reply to them ſeparately.

1ſt. They alledge that, as they underſtand their own conſtitutions, they are beſt qualified to determine what is fit for them.

If, by a knowledge of conſtitution, they mean that they have learned, from experience, what foods and drinks, and what modes of living, are moſt agreeable to their conſtitutions, I concur with them in ſome meaſure; though, as our conſtitutions change at different periods of life, and often in conſequence of diſeaſe, it may happen, that what is ſuitable at one time may be very improper at another; eſpecially if the maxim be extended to the uſe of medicine.

2dly. They aſſert that, whether they preſcribe for themſelves, or for others, they deal in nothing but *ſimple* things; which, if they do no good, cannot do any harm.

I anſwer, that if the diſeaſes for which they preſcribe have a dangerous tendency, and there are few diſeaſes which have not in ſome degree, delay creates danger; and it often happens, that when means, equal to the urgency of the caſe, are omitted, the ſeaſon for relief is irretrievably loſt; and a ſlight diſeaſe frequently degenerates into a mortal malady.

In this way, I am convinced, thouſands of moſt valuable ſubjects are annually loſt to the community; of which a great proportion die of that fatal Engliſh malady *conſumption*. Inſtances of this kind occur daily to phyſicians, who have reaſon to lament that their efforts are unavailing, and their art diſcredited, in conſequence of neglect or miſmanagement in the earlier ſtages of diſeaſe; when there was a moral certainty of danger being prevented by proper management.

There is a conſiderable degree of inconvenience, often of danger, in perſons being in the habit of taking even trivial remedies, for the removal of ſuppoſed complaints; I ſay *ſuppoſed*, becauſe they often are ſo; and the very operation of thoſe drugs may create ſo much

much diſturbance in the conſtitution, as really to produce diſeaſe, inſtead of preventing or removing it. This is peculiarly the caſe with rhubarb, magneſia, *Anderſon*'s, and *James*'s analeptick pills, &c. the firſt doſe creating a neceſſity for a ſecond; and ſo on, until they become indiſpenſably neceſſary:* Of the dangerous effects of this practice, I have given two inſtances in the Eſſay on *Faſhionable Diſeaſes*, to which I refer the reader; and two more have occurred to me ſince the publication of the ſecond edition.

A celebrated ancient phyſician * has cautioned us againſt the deſtructive practice of uſing preventive remedies; and I believe that

* In this inſtance I muſt diſſent from Dr. CADOGAN, who, in the few hints he gives concerning the medical management of gouty patients, (and he conſiders gout as a repreſentative of all other chronic diſeaſes) ſeems to approve of the daily uſe of laxatives: indeed the whole of what he ſays on that head (ſo far as it is intelligible) is, I am perſuaded, in the opinion of moſt of his brethren, peculiarly objectionable. The Doctor ought either to have been more explicit, or totally ſilent; as the practice he hints at is novel and hazardous; and, in improper hands, muſt neceſſarily be very injurious.

* *Celſus*:—Cavendum ne præſidia adverſæ valetudinis in ſecunda conſumantur.

our failure in the cure of diſeaſes often proceeds from this practice; the conſtitution being, by habitual uſe, rendered inſenſible to the impreſſion of remedies, when they are really neceſſary.

In the ſecond edition of my Eſſay on *Regimen*, I have made a remark, which for its importance ought to be taken notice of here. In eſtabliſhing an eſſential diſtinction between diet and medicine, I obſerved, that the difference between them was, that wholeſome diet was that which was eaſily changed by the conſtitution into its own nature, without producing any change by which the organs might be weakened or oppreſſed: on the other hand, there are very few medicines of any conſiderable power, thoſe eſpecially which promote the evacuations of vomiting, purging, or ſweating, which do not change the body more than they are changed by it; and many of them are totally unconquerable by the powers of the conſtitution; and thereby correſpond in their nature to one definition of poiſons: and indeed as medicines and food may be converted into poiſons, ſo poiſons are, when ſkilfully adminiſtered,

adminiſtered, very ſafe remedies; for mercury, antimony, and opium, are really poiſons in their nature.

If we are ſlightly indiſpoſed, which is often the effect of luxurious indulgence, irregular hours, or both; the ſafeſt means of relief is quiet and abſtinence, which enable the conſtitution, by its innate powers, to obviate or remove the ſeeds of diſeaſe.

But in no inſtance is this preventive plan ſo abſurdly and injurioufly employed as with reſpect to infants, children, and young people; and by this means many a tolerable conſtitution has been phyſicked into a ſtate of irremediable weakneſs, infinitely worſe than premature death.

3*dly*. As an apology for the modern practice of keeping cloſet medicines, and amongſt theſe an aſſortment of quack noſtrums; it is alledged, that, beſide its being unſafe to truſt to apothecaries' remedies, which are often bad in their kind, the apothecaries' bills are exorbitant, and much enhanced by their ſelfiſh procraſtination.

To theſe complicated charges, I reply; that the moſt creditable and conſcientious apothecaries

apothecaries generally ſupply themſelves with compound chemical medicines from Apothecaries-hall, and that it is likely they would, for their own credit, procure better drugs than thoſe uſually ſold as *cloſet* medicines; as they are certainly better judges of their qualities than any perſon not of the profeſſion.

With reſpect to the exorbitance of charges; as an apothecary is obliged to have a large aſſortment of medicines, many of which may never be uſed before they ſpoil; I am perſuaded that, though the charges are apparently high, their advantages are not, on the whole, greater than, or ſo great as, thoſe of retailing tradeſmen.* Reſpecting the laſt charge; I believe that, with regard to men of any credit or character, the inſinuation is cruel, and without foundation.†

* Some apothecaries have lately adopted the practice of lumping their bills, inſtead of ſpecifying, as formerly, the particular articles. This groſs impoſition is generally practiced where the patient has had but very few medicines: But it ought to be ſtrenuouſly oppoſed as a baſe fraud.

† I have however had opportunities of being convinced that ſome apothecaries and druggiſts are either ſo unſkilful or ſo ſelfiſh, as to purchaſe bad medicines, or continue to vend them after they become unſound.

4*thly*. A reaſon aſſigned for perſons of ſlender means having recourſe to the uſe of quack remedies, is the high fees of phyſicians, and the inſufficiency of apothecaries.

It is a delicate taſk for a phyſician to diſcuſs the point with regard to the qualification of apothecaries.* If their education be

To remedy this great evil, it is ſubmitted to the wiſdom of the legiſlature, whether ſome expedient may not be fallen upon to oblige all apothecaries in the Britiſh dominions to ſupply themſelves ſolely from Apothecaries-hall with every ſpecies of medicine. That great and wiſe Princeſs, the *Empreſs of Ruſſia*, has directed that no remedies ſhall be diſpenſed in her extenſive dominions, except ſuch as are vended under her authority.

* There is an old Latin proverb, which implies "that the "cowl does not make the monk;" and I am ſorry truth obliges me to declare, that it is ſo far applicable to our profeſſion, that every man who aſſumes the title of M. D. has not, either by his education, ſkill, or conduct, any juſt claim to the diſtinction; whilſt men under the denomination of ſurgeons and apothecaries may, by genius and education, be poſſeſſed of the abilities, without the credentials of a phyſician. Unhappily, however, for the community, the inſtances are rare, and it is ſtill more unfortunate, that the public at large are not qualified to diſtinguiſh them from their ignorant and preſuming brethren. I believe many of my brethren, as well as myſelf, are much gratified when

ſufficient,

ſufficient, phyſicians are *unneceſſary*; but as the publick does not yet entertain that opinion, any more than the apothecaries themſelves, *a few ſelf-ſufficient men excepted*; it is much to be regretted that the fees of phyſicians are ſo high, that few, excepting people of opulence, can conveniently have *early* recourſe to their aſſiſtance. The only expedient by which this evil can be remedied, would be to adopt the regulations eſtabliſhed in moſt other parts of Europe, viz. to permit none but phyſicians to preſcribe in medical caſes, and ſurgeons in their department; that apothecaries be confined to their original employment of making up preſcriptions;* and druggiſts and chemiſts be, un-

they meet with men of this character; and are diſpoſed to conſider them rather as reſpectable coadjutors, than as holding an inferior rank in the profeſſion.

* The term *apothecary* is derived from a compound Greek verb which ſignifies to depoſite; and the ſubſtantive implies a repoſitory of drugs; ſo that apothecaries evidently deviate from their original deſtination, when they become *preſcribers* inſtead of *diſpenſers* of drugs: However, according to the preſent conſtitution of phyſick, which ſtands in need of much reform, it would be impoſſible to limit them to their proper occupation, unleſs the fees of phyſicians were reduced.

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der a ſevere penalty, prevented from vending drugs by retail; whilſt the regulation of quackery on the plan to be laid down in the next eſſay, would tend very much to place the practice of phyſick on a reſpectable and beneficial footing.

There are ſeveral reaſons to be aſſigned for the fees of phyſicians being ſo high. Excepting a few, who have really too much employment to do proper juſtice to their patients, the major part are rarely called in until it is too late; and this rather to *ſave* appearances, and exculpate the apothecary, than with any great hope of *ſaving* the patient. Thus many years elapſe, before the emoluments of his profeſſion are more than ſufficient to ſupport a phyſician in the rank of a gentleman. If, in proceſs of time, his employment becomes extenſive and profitable, he is willing to compenſate for his former loſs of time; and to endeavour to ſecure for himſelf a decent independency, and a proviſion for his family. But that the profeſſion is *not* lucrative, is evident from the ſmall number of phyſicians who acquire large fortunes.

A phyſician of London, now deſervedly in great practice, aſſured me ſeveral years ago, that, with conſiderable buſineſs, many years had elapſed, before his annual income was equal to 800l.

This was, in ſome meaſure, to be attributed to a liberal plan he adopted of accommodating his fees to the abilities of his patients; inſomuch that, on a fair calculation, partly from the ſmallneſs of the fee, never or rarely exceeding half-a-guinea, and his gratis viſits, he did not receive more than half that ſum on an average; and that, taking one patient with another, he did not receive more than one guinea for the whole of his attendance during a fit of illneſs. This gentleman has ſince been amply rewarded for his humanity; and indeed, if we conſider the time and labour many phyſicians beſtow in attending hoſpitals, diſpenſaries, and other charitable inſtitutions, and the many viſits they make gratis, the profeſſion will be found not to merit the imputation of avarice and rapacity: though, as among all other orders of men, there may be, and are, exceptions.

Fees

Fees ought certainly to be adapted to the abilities of the patients, and other circumſtances; and a man of honour and probity will diſtinguiſh thoſe circumſtances wherein he ought to relax in the article of fees.

Men of fortune, high ſpirit, and great generoſity, are very much diſpoſed to gratify the phyſician in a manner which, if his diſpoſition be not ſordid, he will not accept of; and yet it is a very delicate taſk to refuſe on ſuch an occaſion without giving offence: on the other hand, as there are many whoſe circumſtances, when compared with their ſtation in life, enable them to do that juſtice to the phyſician, which their narrow ſpirits incline them to deny him; ſuch ought not to be ſpared; nor do perſons of this turn deſerve to be treated with any degree of delicacy:—Many perſons of a valetudinary habit have acquired ſuch an unlucky bias of mind, as never to be ſatisfied without the attendance of the doctor, and a conſtant courſe of medicine; an honeſt man will diſcourage ſuch a diſpoſition, and avoid availing himſelf of this unhappy propenſity.

Tender

Tender huſbands, parents, or relations, to ſatisfy themſelves that they have done their utmoſt, ſhall often ſolicit the attendance of the phyſician, though they know that all remedies muſt be ineffectual: here it would be as cruel to decline an attendance which might give ſatisfaction to the miſerable patient, or conſolation to the afflicted relations, as it would be ſordid to inſiſt rigidly on the article of fees.

Perſons who, with very limited incomes, are obliged to ſupport a genteel appearance, (among whom I heartily wiſh I were not obliged to rank a ſet of men truly reſpectable by their learning and function) may often want the aſſiſtance of a phyſician; though by no means able to gratify him in a manner correſponding to their inclination, or to eſtabliſhed cuſtom. Under ſuch circumſtances, a phyſician of a liberal turn of mind will fall upon ſuch methods of accommodating his demands to the ſituation of his patients, as ſhall not hurt the delicacy of perſons, whoſe feelings, and ſenſe of propriety, are generally in proportion to their education.

I take this opportunity of introducing an obſervation not inapplicable to the preſent ſubject:—

As the powers of the mind are generally weakened by diſeaſe, perſons naturally of firm and ſteady diſpoſitions often become, under the influence of bad health, timid, irreſolute, and peeviſh. Hence it is that, if not ſpeedily relieved, they change their phyſicians, and, diſguſted at length with the regulars, generally become a prey to ignorant and knaviſh quacks.

Thus it is that thouſands, whoſe maladies would certainly have yielded to judicious and ſteady management, have fallen a ſacrifice to caprice and credulity.

I think it my duty, therefore, moſt earneſtly to recommend to my readers, never to employ a medical man in whoſe ſkill and integrity they have not entire confidence; and that having made their choice, they do adhere ſteadily and implicitly to the uſe of the means he preſcribes; and though their too ſanguine expectations of relief are not gratified, they ought not therefore to arraign either

either the ſkill of the phyſician, or the power of medicine.

A change of phyſicians ſeldom anſwers any good purpoſe; and I may venture to aver, that even conſultations rarely contribute to the benefit of the patient; with reſpect to the employment of quacks, or the uſe of quack medicines, I refer the reader to what will be ſaid on this ſubject in the next eſſay.

As for thoſe who labour under imaginary diſeaſes, "*who are ſick by way of amuſement, and melancholy to keep up their ſpirits,*" I recommend to them the peruſal of the very ingenious Mr. COLMAN's farce of the Spleen; and the no leſs ingenious Mr. FOOTE's comedy of Dr. LAST in his Chariot; where this dangerous propenſity to quackery is ridiculed with infinite wit and humour.

It may and does happen, however, that diſeaſes at firſt imaginary become at length real; the functions of the body being gradually depraved and impaired by anxiety and deſpondency.

This, among many other inſtances, ſeems to have been the caſe of the wife of a London tradeſman,

tradeſman, who, after having undergone a long courſe of regular and irregular practice, conſulted me at Bath.

The only *benefits* this good woman ſeemed to have derived from her medical diſcipline, were a broken conſtitution, a ruinous expence, and a medical jargon, compoſed of the different opinions of her quondam doctors. I therefore found this poor woman more diſpoſed to explain her ſymptoms, than to deſcribe her feelings. Happily for her, the laſt noſtrum-monger ſhe employed attributed all her ſymptoms to *Bile*; and he having, during twelve months, exhauſted all his ſkill in attempting to tame this monſter, the patient being accidentally informed that Bath waters *were good for the bile*, went thither with the moſt ſanguine expectation that the water would do for her in *three weeks* what her doctors had not been able to effect for her in three years.

Thus it is that wretched hypochondriacs ruin their conſtitutions and embitter their lives, by their perpetual ſolicitude about the preſervation of both; and from their unhappy propenſity to try every new remedy that

that is recommended to them, have contributed exceedingly to extend and ſupport the preſent deſtructive ſpirit of quackery.

5thly. The Lady and Gentlemen Doctors, ſince the publication of ſome *popular* medical books, proceed with more confidence in their private practice than their predeceſſors; as deeming thoſe books ſufficient guides in every caſe that can occur; and when they deign to conſult a phyſician or apothecary, it is rather with an expectation of having their medical ſagacity applauded, than their errors corrected.*

* One principal cauſe of the prevalence of quackery, is the illiberal manner in which medical men often treat each other, for the baſe purpoſe of eſtabliſhing a reputation on the ruin of that of a rival.

Thus, when a ſecond phyſician is called in, he hints to the family his diſapprobation of whatever has been done by his colleague or predeceſſor; and hereby a double purpoſe is anſwered; if the patient recovers, the praiſe is excluſively his own; if he dies, it is *juſtly* inferred, that his ſkill was rendered abortive by former miſmanagement.

Such acts are often practiſed by a ſelf-ſufficient apothecary, if the doctor is not a creature of his own.

Theſe damning inſinuations fly from goſſip to goſſip with ſurpriſing rapidity. What is the conſequence? The good ladies, finding that medical men entertain ſuch difference of

When

When a phyſician hints his diſapprobation of ſuch publications, he is ſuſpected of ſiniſter motives; and as medical men are ſuppoſed to be very averſe from every attempt to remove the veil of myſtery by which the art is ſuppoſed to be involved, I ſhall, to avoid the imputation, faithfully detail the ſubſtance of a converſation held ſome years ago, (the quotation excepted) and leave the reader to draw his own concluſions; and for the ſake of brevity, I will throw it into the form of dialogue.

About fifteen years ago I was deſired to viſit the wife of a gentleman of very reſpectable character, and profound erudition.

Having examined into the ſtate of my patient's caſe, I was ſhewn into the library, and found on his table *Tiſſot's Avis au Peuple*, and *Buchan's Domeſtic Medicine*.

He joined me in a few minutes, and the following dialogue commenced:—

opinion concerning the treatment of the ſame diſeaſe, infer that the medical art is totally conjectural; and therefore that it will be ſafer to rely on quack remedies, on the infallibility of which the venders never fail to beſtow the moſt extravagant encomiums.

A. How is your patient, doctor, and what is her diſeaſe?

B. From the general ſymptoms, I am inclined to think there is ſome danger in the caſe; but the diſeaſe ſeems to be ſo complicated and obſcure, that I have not *yet* been able to aſcertain its cauſes, ſeat, or nature.

A. The confeſſion is ingenuous: are you always ſo explicit?

B. Always, when I can rely on the good ſenſe and candour of the perſons concerned.

A. On peruſing the introductory chapter of a book* publiſhed a few years ago, I was induced to ſtudy medicine as a branch of philoſophy; and if you caſt your eye over my books, you will find a tolerable collection, all of which I have read with care; but the knowledge they afford me has not inſpired me with ſufficient confidence to attempt the practice of the art, and therefore I requeſted your attendance.

B. It gives me much pleaſure to attend the family of a gentleman who is a judge of

* Commentaries on the Principles and Practice of Medicine, by the Author.

medical

medical practice. Phyſicians, as the Roſecruſians of old, and alchemiſts of latter days, have been accuſed of a wiſh to impreſs mankind with an opinion, that their art is myſterious and inſcrutable to all but the initiated: but from this imputation I claim an exemption; and in that reſpect, I have the honour of concurring with one of the greateſt and beſt men who ever adorned our profeſſion;* and in the publication to which you allude, I have expreſſed my ſurprize and concern that, intimately connected as medicine is with natural and experimental philoſophy, ſo few men of learning have enquired into its principles as a ſcience, unleſs with a view to practice it as an art. Men of general learning might, without much ſtudy or labour, acquire the leading principles of an art, in the improvement and ſupport of which they are, in every relation of life, ſo deeply intereſted.—"A private "gentleman (ſays Dr. GREGORY) who has "a literary turn, and chuſes to ſtudy medi- "cine as a curious and intereſting branch of

* The late Dr. *Gregory*, Profeſſor of Medicine at Edinburgh.

" natural hiſtory, will find the hiſtory of his " own ſpecies a more intereſting ſubject, " than the natural hiſtory of ſpiders and " cockle-ſhells. To him ſuch a degree of " knowledge only is neceſſary, as may enable " him to underſtand medical books of merit, " and to judge of the comparative merit of " thoſe men to whom he is to commit the " important charge of his own health, and " the health of thoſe whom he is obliged " by the ties of nature and humanity to take " care of. If ſuch men were to claim their " right of enquiry into a ſubject that ſo " nearly concerns them, the good effects of " medicine would ſoon appear. They would " have no ſeparate intereſt from that of the " art: they would detect and expoſe aſſuming " ignorance, and be the judges and patrons " of modeſt merit.

" Caſes very often occur, where an inge- " nious phyſician ſees his patient haſtening " to certain death. He knows a remedy that " affords a probable proſpect of ſaving his " life; but it is uncommon, not agreeable " to the eſtabliſhed orthodox opinion, and " perhaps dangerous in its operation: Here

is

" is a dreadful dilemma. If he gives the " remedy, and the patient dies, he is utterly " ruined. The *dunces*, who are the moſt " numerous in every profeſſion, are always " at war with genius, and watch its miſcar- " riages with an anxious and malignant eye; " all his preſcriptions muſt remain on the " apothecaries file, and riſe up in judgment " againſt him, and upon any miſcarriage, " the outcry is raiſed and propagated with " the utmoſt malignity.

" The only tame and believing patients " are *the men of ſenſe*, who generally ſubmit " to their phyſician, whoever he is, with " wonderful faith and patience; while all " the midwives, nurſes, and old women, are " phyſicians; and the dignity of the moſt " ſtately of the profeſſion is often obliged to " ſtoop to the folly and caprices of ſuch " people, who are ſometimes of more conſe- " quence in making a phyſician's fortune, " than all the merit he can poſſeſs."

A. I well recollect the ſubſtance of the quotation from Dr. GREGORY'S introductory lecture; which I have read with much plea-

ſure,

ſure, and a ſincere reſpect for the candour and liberality of that ingenious profeſſor.

I have often been aſtoniſhed to find men of learning and ſcience, from ignorance of the knowledge neceſſary to form a ſkilful phyſician, commend, as miracles of medical ſkill, perſons who in their converſation and manners evinced the ignorance and vulgarity of a groom. How can this be accounted for but by ſuppoſing that *even* men of erudition deem learning and ſcience to be totally detached from medical ſkill; and that bald experience is unconnected with medical principle? How therefore can we be ſurpriſed that empiriciſm is countenanced by all ranks, when the moſt diſcerning have formed ſo falſe an eſtimate of the healing art!*

B. I have had repeated opportunities of making the ſame obſervation.

A moderate knowledge of medical principles would be of great uſe to the *clergy*, eſpecially thoſe who reſide in the country.

* This ſtricture is not only applicable to quacks, but to ſome blockheads in the ſeveral departments of the regulars.

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The middle and lower ranks of people are in general very averſe to medical aſſiſtance; and very unſteady in the uſe of it: but a clergyman, when he knows that he is qualified to give his opinion, will make uſe of his influence to induce his pariſhioners to apply early for relief, and to perſiſt in the uſe of proper means; which medical men, from a ſuſpicion of their being intereſted, can rarely prevail on them to do. Some thouſands of moſt valuable ſubjects are loſt every year in this kingdom, by their avarice, their obſtinacy, or their indigence. A country clergyman, thus qualified, will alſo be able to render very eſſential ſervices to the parochial poor: he will, in ſome degree, be a judge of their diſeaſes, and be able to determine when they want aſſiſtance; and what kind of neceſſaries the pariſh officers ought to ſupply them with, not only to aſſiſt the efficacy of remedies, but to promote recovery, and prevent relapſe.*

* Many years ago the clergyman of a country pariſh in Hampſhire, made uſe of many arguments to perſuade a farmer who was very ill, to call in the Author; but in vain. His

A. I ſincerely wiſh that my brethren of the clergy would employ part of their leiſure in the enquiries you recommend.

Juſt before you arrived I had been turning over two books now on the table, that I might endeavour to form a tolerable judgment of the nature of your patient's caſe; but have been diſappointed; nor am I ſurpriſed to find I have been ſo, after the frank declaration you have made. What is your opinion of compilations on this plan?

B. You have aſſigned me an invidious taſk, which I ſhould rather have wiſhed to decline. *Tiſſot*'s work might be of ſome uſe in the mountains of Switzerland, where medical aſſiſtance of any kind is rarely to be met with; but I doubt whether the other was *ſo* neceſſary in a country where medical men abound.

A. As you decline being more explicit, I will venture to give you my opinion.

Theſe compilations either *are* ſufficient guides, with reſpect to the treatment of every

ſon effected at once, by a homely proverb, what the learned divine could not do by his eloquence—"P'ſhaw, fader, we munna loſe the ſheep for a haporth o' tar."

diſeaſe

diſeaſe which occurs, or they *are not*. If they are, the medical art is compriſed within a much ſmaller compaſs than I conceived, or indeed have found it to be, on peruſing ſome of the beſt books in every branch of the ſcience: and, ſo far as reſpects the ſtudy of it as a ſcience, I may, without preſumption, hold myſelf to be a tolerable judge.

If Dr. BUCHAN's compilation is ſufficient to enable an ordinary reader, male or female, to commence phyſician, the many years of ſtudy and application deemed hitherto to be indiſpenſably neceſſary to the education of a phyſician, muſt have been totally miſapplied; and Dr. BUCHAN, and the reſt of his brethren who adopt his ſentiments, *if any ſuch there be*, ought, if they are honeſt men, to reſign their claims to practice, in favour, *I will not ſay of apothecaries*, but of every old woman who has abilities and patience ſufficient to *ſpell* the book. If theſe works *are not* ſufficient guides, and I did not require the preſent caſe as an evidence that they are not, I will venture to pronounce ſuch publications to be very injurious; becauſe they have a manifeſt tendency to encourage a dan-

gerous ſpecies of empiriciſm, *now very prevalent*; by inſpiring a confidence of ſkill and ability which they cannot impart; and the author is therefore reſponſible for all the conſequences.*

* It is with reluctance I detail theſe *genuine* ſtrictures on the publication of a brother fellow of the ſame college; who, I believe, is a very reſpectable phyſician—*Amicus Plato, ſed magis Amica veritas*.—I am however perſuaded that the *Domeſtic Medicine* is a good compilation of modern practice; but addreſſed to perſons in whoſe hands it becomes a *dangerous edged-tool*. The only good purpoſe it is likely to anſwer, is its being a tolerable memorandum-book for apothecaries.

A very ingenious clergyman of my acquaintance tells me, that being an invalid, he ſometime ago read a part of Dr. Buchan's book, and finding himſelf ſtrongly impreſſed with an idea that he ſuffered under each ſucceſſive diſeaſe, as he proceeded, he thruſt the book into the fire, and with the *Domeſtic Medicine* diſmiſſed his imaginary maladies.

The ingenious Mr. Colman has, with exquiſite humour, exhibited the effects of medical reading on hypochondriacs, in the character of *Doily* in his farce of the *Spleen*; and I have no doubt but Dr. Buchan has contributed very much to increaſe the number of thoſe wretched beings.

No circumſtance has given me more pain from the anonymous epiſtolary ſcurrilities of the quacks, than their daring to inſinuate that I place Dr. Buchan on a level with thoſe wretches:—*nos poma natamus*; for no *candid* reader could draw any ſuch inference. I have taken the liberty to diſſent from reſpectable phyſicians in the courſe of theſe eſſays; but always, I hope, with candour and good manners.

B. Ig-

B. Ignorance and preſumption are generally concomitant; and I believe, that men of the firſt abilities in the profeſſion, in proportion to the extenſion of their practice, their experimental conviction of the manifold difficulties which attend the inveſtigation of diſeaſes, and the mortifying diſappointments they meet with in their attempts to remove them, become daily more cautious and diffident; whilſt thoſe who have only *caught the eel of ſcience by the tail* unhappily conceive they have no difficulties to encounter.

This ſelf-ſufficiency is often, and indeed generally, the reſult of a falſe and erroneous analogy. If a lady doctor hears of a caſe in which a particular remedy has been ſucceſsful, ſhe uſes, and recommends it, on the faith of an ignorant relator, in every caſe which is ſuppoſed to be ſimilar; though it is more

The truth is, the nature of my plan required that I ſhould be explicit in my opinion of the injurious effects of ſuch publications as that of the *Domeſtic Medicine*; and I have had the pleaſure of convincing ſome gentlemen of learning of the impropriety of publiſhing ſuch books.

than probable that there is really no ſimilarity; or ſhe conſults the *Domeſtic Medicine*; and having compared the doctor's deſcription of the diſeaſe with the patient's ſymptoms, preſcribes with great confidence. It may however, *unhappily for the poor patient*, happen, that in conſequence of ſome *ſmall miſtake* in analogy, the preſcription fails, much time is loſt, and the phyſician or apothecary is called in to rectify the conſequences of delay or miſmanagement, which is not always in his power.

Phyſicians know, and often from painful experience, that ſuch is the diverſity of aſpect which diſeaſes aſſume, not only from difference of conſtitution, but in the various ſtages of their progreſs, and even from the untoward operation of medicines; that *no general deſcription of diſeaſes*, or *rules of practice*, which can be derived from books, will avail; but that, with all the aſſiſtance which ſtrict analogical reaſoning, grounded on extenſive experience, can afford them, they ſometimes err in aſcertaining the nature of the diſeaſe, and therefore neceſſarily in applying the means of relief.

In

In ſuch a dilemma, however, it will not be denied that they are better qualified to diſcern and rectify the error, than any of the *eléves* of Dr. BUCHAN'S *ſchool.*

A. I heartily accord with you.

I ſhall conclude this chapter, by expreſſing my wiſhes, that the arguments I have urged, from the moſt diſintereſted motives, may make a proper impreſſion on my fair readers; and I do moſt heartily recommend to their conſideration, whether, in thoſe inſtances where they venture to perform the duties and offices of the phyſician, *they are not in danger of incurring a breach of the ſixth commandment.*

When

DEDICATION.

To PHILIP THICKNESSE,

Formerly Gunner of Landguard Fort, now Cenſor General of Great Britain,† Profeſſor of Empiricism, ‡ and caſual Compiler, Rape, and Murder-Monger to the St. James's Chronicle.*

Honoured and Honourable Sir.

THE great reſpectability of your character, and the high celebrity of your fame, in every corner of the world, entitle you to every mark of diſtinction, and the

* How he loſt this ſafe and ſnug birth he beſt can explain. The court of enquiry treated him with great lenity, though he has always complained of it in the bittereſt terms: Had he been brought to a court martial, even the old *ſerjeant* could not have ſaved his bacon.

† It is ſurprizing how much perſons of all ranks at Bath were afraid of this man, though all hated or deſpiſed him. Hence the numerous ſubſcriptions to his Memoirs. Two inſtances of this fellow's tyrannical inſolence merit notice: Knowing a lady, who *unfortunately* had a ſlight acquaintance

public

public will do us the juſtice to acknowledge, that we could not have choſen a more ſuitable patron.

That there are often certain relations ſubſiſting between the dedicator and dedicatee,

with him, was at Bath, and not ſeeing her ſubſcription, ſent her notice that he would make her repent it: She ſubſcribed immediately.

As A.'s Reply to TH. was not ſold, a very reſpectable gentleman requeſted a copy, of which T. being informed, he ſtruck him out of his liſt of ſubſcribers. A day or two after the gentleman received an anonymous letter, accuſing him of a propenſity to a damnable vice.

‡ He had always been a dabbler in quackery. He wrote the Valetudinarian's Bath Guide, in which he recommended opium and rolling the patient upon a barrel, as infallible remedies in a bilious colic: The former had been uſed before T. was born: for the barrel, his former occupation as a *cooper* had given him a predilection. But he did not commence a practical quack till he met with Abbe MANN's gout remedies at Bruſſels. He then advertiſed them in a pamphlet, in which he aſſerted that the extract of wolf's-bane was not prepared here, (not true) and that he procured his remedies from the continent. It does not appear that he ever had more than one patient. and *he* was *not* cured. This gentleman took theſe poiſons in immenſe doſes; but the doctor knew ſo little of his own tools, that he was ignorant that cicuta and hemlock were the ſame medicine, and the latter and hellebore different plants: He might as well have called an *adze* a hand-ſaw.

(ſit

(*ſit venia phraſi*; you will be ſo good as tranſlate this ſcrap for the benefit of the country gentlemen) which clearly point out a claim to preference is evident, and ſuch is the relation which ſubſiſts between your honour and the humbleſt of your admirers.

In the firſt place, you will mark the relation between you as the ſubject, and us as the editors, of the following eſſay; and there cannot, we humbly conceive, be a greater affinity of intereſt and affection, unleſs where, *as ſometimes has happened, an author dedicates his labours to himſelf:* The affinity between author and author is manifeſt, for though they often wrangle, like the gentlemen of the bar, their good humour and harmony are never interrupted, nor their tempers ſoured, by their mutual contentions for victory by reply, rejoinder, rebutter, and ſur-rebutter.*

* It will ſoon appear how univerſal an author he has been; for ſome years he has been a collector of paragraphs for the St James's Chronicle, for which he had ſixpence a dozen, but double for a rape or murder; and, *as he ſaid,* a *guinea* for each of his *Wanderers:* But if, as is moſt likely, he got not a twentieth part of the ſum, it would have been ſufficient to defray all his expences to the *Pays Bas*, as, like a former

As

As a compoſitor, excepting the printer's devil, is the loweſt of all the humble retainers to literature; the relation to you as an author is ſelf-evident, and not leſs ſo as a caſual compiler and quack; for as you both feed and phyſick us occaſionally, ſo we repay the obligation, by uſhering your paragraphs to the publick, puffing your noſtrums, and exhibiting to your ſuffering fellow creatures the moſt undoubted and indiſputable proofs, in the form of affidavits, of the infallibility of your remedies. And here permit us, Worthy and Great Sir, to digreſs a little,

peripatetic, *Coriat*, he travelled on his ten toes. Theſe *Wanderers* contained a ſeries of trifling, abſurd, or abuſive anecdotes: In one of them he abuſed a very reſpectable order of the ſociety of Jeſuits, the only ſubſiſting branch of the order now in the world.

A. having received much civility from thoſe gentlemen, moſt of them Engliſhmen, undertook to anſwer THICKNESSE's calumnies in the Gazetteer. Hence his implacable malignity, which he ſtored up for a more fit occaſion; whilſt, with the artifice of a fiend, he took every opportunity of cultivating his acquaintance, that he might ſeize a more ſuitable opportunity of wreaking his vengeance: A never failing maxim with him; knowing that to betray with ſucceſs, it was previouſly neceſſary to ſecure in ſome degree the confidence of the deſtined victim.

without loſing ſight of our ſubject, and with great deference offer you our ſentiments on a ſubject we always contemplate *con amore:* we mean the immenſe utility of what the duncical regulars, envious of your ſuperiority, faſtidiouſly term QUACKERY.

It is manifeſtly attended with aſtoniſhing advantages.

1ſt. The ſimplicity of the empirical practice muſt recommend it. For, as we have heard a learned Doctor ſay, that a celebrated French profeſſor had proved as clearly as that the ſun ſhines at noon-day, that of the diſeaſes to which human nature is ſubject, there are not much fewer than 2000: Now, if we ſuppoſe that, as your friend Mr. TICKELL has evidently ſhewn in his valuable treatiſe on the ætherial ſpirit, that this ſingle remedy will infallibly cure, not only *all* * diſeaſes of the ſtomach, but *almoſt* every diſeaſe of every other organ; or, to ſpeak a little more modeſtly than your excellent friend,

* When the Doctor, in the ſecond edition of his Medical Cautions, had expoſed the ignorance and impudence of this aſſertion, T. left out *all* in advertiſements.

(par

(par nobile fratrum) in the ardour of his enthuſiaſm has done, let us only ſuppoſe, and the ſuppoſition will be highly reaſonable, that each remedy will cure 100 diſeaſes, the whole Materia Medica will be reduced to a ſcore.

Who does not ſee the aſtoniſhing benefit the public will derive from this reduction: whereas, what with the diploma doctors, (many of whom never reſided iny any other univerſity than that of Broughton's Amphitheatre, or St. George's Fields, the latter of which, perhaps the former alſo, had the high honour of forming your mind and manners, and compleating your education) the lady Bountifuls, midwives, and nurſes, not to omit your reſpectable fraternity; the number of remedies is now become nearly as great as that of diſeaſes.

2dly. The infallibility of all your noſtrums; whereas when one of the regulars takes a poor patient in hand, it is more than an even chance, that the remedies kill inſtead of curing him; ſo that what with the various accidents to which we are daily liable, the numbers who expire before, during, and im-

mediately after birth; of thoſe who die of broken hearts, broken ſkulls, hard drinking, and poiſon; and by wars undertaken by princes, potentates, and prime miniſters, always on the moſt humane, diſintereſted, and equitable principles, were it not for your *invaluable* ſociety, the breed of mankind would many ages ago have been extinct.

3dly. The generoſity and diſintereſtedneſs of the gentlemen of your *college*. When a doctor or apothecary preſcribes or diſpenſes phyſick, he is paid whether he lives or dies; whereas there is not one of you, whether your *Honour*, Drs. Freeman, Meyerſback, or De Loutherburg, (the latter indeed has the advantage over all of you, as being poſſeſſed of miraculous powers) who will not, rather than loſe a patient, practice on the liberal principle of no cure, no pay.

Your virtues and intellectual attainments, *Worthy Sir*, are ſo numerous and ſo brilliant, that we are really at a loſs to know which of them merits the firſt rank, or how to invent *adequate* terms to convey to your admiring countrymen a juſt idea of ſo celebrated a character.

As

As a man of *genius*,* we ſhall not, by thoſe who know you *intimately*, be ſuſpected of flattery if we place you in the higheſt rank.

As a *ſcholar*,† you have long commanded the reſpect of the public, by your profound knowledge of the dead and living languages, eſpecially the Latin, French, and your own language; in the latter, particularly, you ſtand unrivalled, with reſpect to the excellence of your orthography, the accuracy of your deſcriptions, the candour, preciſion, and *truth* of your characters, the ſtrength of your arguments, and the purity and elegance of your ſtile. Though your confidential friends confeſs, that in a critical

* If duncical ignorance conſtitutes *genius*, Maſter PHILL has a juſt claim to the epithet.

† In his pamphlet on the quack pills, he had made uſe of the term *navigat Anticyra* inſtead of *naviget Anticyram*, as HORACE has it. The Author of the Medical Cautions pointed out the blunder; but the blockhead had forgot it; and repeated it in his ſcurrilous attack upon him, in which, whilſt he accuſed the Doctor of not underſtanding French, he gave him an opportunity of convincing him that he could, at leaſt, correct his blunders in that language.

knowledge

knowledge of the Greek, you are not quite on a par with the celebrated *Bentley*; they allow you a marked ſuperiority over that learned critic in the knowledge of the Hebrew, Gothic, and Wild Iriſh.

Of your univerſal and deep knowledge in the arts, ſciences, and belles lettres, you have given the moſt irrefragable proofs in your numerous publications; of which to avoid offending your inſuperable modeſty, we ſhall only enumerate a few inſtances.

Thus your works have been Ethical,* Theological, † Hieroglyphical, ‡ Biographical, §

* If an utter perverſion of the principles of morality entitle his works to this praiſe, they are ſtrictly *moral*.

† The precepts of Chriſtianity muſt ever be violated by an immoral writer: In this walk of ſcience he has only publiſhed his Spiritual Songs, for the benefit of a Methodiſt Meeting in Georgia, to which he was clerk, and where he firſt acquired his *exquiſite* taſte for muſic.

‡ He offered himſelf as a candidate for the office of State Decypherer; and, as a proof of his qualifications, wrote a book which the Devil himſelf could not decypher.

§ The Author of the Medical Cautions, as he himſelf confeſſes, gave him the firſt hint of this undertaking; to whom, *in gratitude*, he dedicated it; but was deficient in that po-

Topo-

Topographical,* Political,† Peripatetical,‡ Lexicographical, § Analogical, || Mechani-

liteneſs due from a dedicator to a dedicatee; for he did not ſend him a copy. Of this excellent *morceau* too much cannot be ſaid, with reſpect either to the *fidelity* of the narrative, the *importance* of the materials, or the *elegance* of the language. It has, however, been ſuſpected that, as has happened to other celebrated *geniuſes*, his *memory* has ſometimes failed him; as there are ſome well known anecdotes of himſelf, and which would have done him *infinite honour*, which he has omitted: His friends attribute the omiſſion to his *inſuperable modeſty*.

* Witneſs his deſcription of *Monte Serrata*, which he *borrowed* from a work of the laſt century.

† He has been a great political writer; and when his pamphlets have been diſregarded, as often happened, he gave them conſequence, by anſwering them himſelf.

The principles of a political ſcribbler are always regulated by his intereſt; and he adopts that party which is moſt likely to procure him a meal: Of late, however, he has generally been a flaming patriot; not only becauſe it has always been more eaſy to detect errors, than to amend them; but alſo on account of ſome mortifying diſappointments he has lately met with from ſome of his *quondam* friends now connected with adminiſtration: He will not readily forget the circumſtance of a miniature portrait. This was one of the moſt ſevere and heart-felt rebuffs he ever met with.

‡ Mr. T. who is from *neceſſity* and habit an œconomiſt, would have made a pedeſtrian expedition of his travels into Spain;

cal,*

cal,* Anecdotical,‡ Critical, § and Farcical. †

but his friend *Jacko* having objected ſtrongly to this ungentleman-like mode of travelling, he purchaſed a cart and a broken-winded horſe, and converted Jacko into a poſtillion, to the infinite amuſement of every village he paſſed through.

§ It is ſuppoſed he was the chief compiler of that uſeful and entertaining work the *Scoundrels* Dictionary; and no man certainly was ever better qualified to perform the taſk, from his long and intimate acquaintance with the language of St. Giles's, Hockley in the Hole, St. George's Fields, and Newgate: Thoſe ſeminaries having been alternately honoured with his reſidence, firſt as a pupil, afterwards as a profeſſor.

‖ There is a *natural* logic, which the ploughman uſes as adroitly as the philoſopher, though he does not know, even the names of his tools: This natural logic may be termed *common ſenſe*: But this man never poſſeſſed an atom of it, ſo that for the laſt 60 years, he has been "blundering round the meaning," without ever attaining it. Hence, as an author, he has ever been perplexed and confuſed; his premiſes have been erroneous, and his concluſions abſurd.

He threatened to publiſh an analogy between the practice of the celebrated *Graham* and that of our author; but he was not equal to the taſk, ſo that education, of which he is totally deſtitute, and which muſt always improve a perſon of ſome natural capacity, would only have expoſed his incorrigible duncicality; for he would even have been a blundering botching cooper.

But

But in enumerating your rare acquirements, it would be doing you the high-

* He was bred a cooper, and ran away from his maſter in Parſonage-lane. This circumſtance was related by a very old gentleman, his cotemporary. Though the father had long been at variance with his children by *Lady Betty*, and he had libelled both the noble lord and his brother; the pride of the peer induced him (if ſome perſon had not the preſumption to commit a forgery in his name) to write A. from Paris, an angry letter, in which he threatened him with the cenſure of the houſe of lords, for ſaying that his father had been a *cooper*; inferring, with all the acumen of a logician, that he muſt of courſe be the *ſon* of a cooper: But that auguſt aſſembly, of which the noble lord is a member, has been ſo much engaged by more important concerns, that this breach of privilege, *conſequential* as it is, has not yet been diſcuſſed.

Another inſtance of Mr. T's. mechanical genius was his conſtructing a ſpeaking figure to rival a puppet-ſhow man, and take the poor man's bread out of his mouth; but it did not bring ſo much griſt to his mill as Struenzee's head. However he ſold a few ſixpenny pamphlets on the occaſion; but his mechanical puppet was ſo inferior to that of his antagoniſt, that his pretenſions only expoſed him to ridicule.

‡ The anecdotes in his works are particularly well timed, *lively*, and *humorous*.

His rememorandrum jurnal, as he terms it, having fallen into our hands, we have found it to be a regiſter of the anecdotes of his life, adventures, opinions, various plans of harraſſing and calumniating his opponents, malicious ſtories communicated concerning them, ſupplied by others,

eſt injuſtice to omit your profound knowledge in the Botanical, * Obſtetrical, ‡

or fabricated by himſelf, in a mode of ſpelling, and of ſtyle, peculiarly his own; and he has enriched it with many ſtories which, it is ſuppoſed, he has picked up from his Hampſhire friends near Goſport; which, *prima facie*, do not ſeem to be very favourable to the author of theſe eſſays; but upon analizing them, we diſcover the charges to be ſo problematical in their nature, that, with a gentle twiſt either way, we may convert them into virtues or vices.

Thus, by theſe worthies, a laudable œconomy has been converted into parſimony; juſt reſentment into violent paſſion; frankneſs and candour into rudeneſs; independence of ſpirit into pride; reſiſtance of impoſition into ſtingineſs; generoſity of ſpirit into oſtentation; charity into vanity; firmneſs and perſeverance into obſtinacy and perverſeneſs; ſingularity of opinion and *ſoliloquy* into madneſs; and gravity into melancholy. We are the more inclined to believe, that A. poſſeſſes the virtues rather than the vices, from M.S.S. now in my hands. and which ſhall ſoon be publiſhed, for the benefit of ſociety; eſpecially as the author is ſuppoſed not to be in a fit ſtate to do himſelf juſtice.

§ Of his critical knowledge of languages ſome notice has already been taken.

† Some wags have alledged, that all his productions are farcical; but ſome of his ſtrokes in the letter to the author of the Medical Cautions are truly ſublime, though it muſt be confeſſed, that he rarely reaches the genuine pathetic, unleſs when he diſcants on a rape, a murder, or a ſtarvation, (a feeling ſubject

Empi-

Empirical, § Altercative and Vituperative Arts. ‖

for an author) ; in general, however, his peculiar forte is the *Bathos*, for he has ever manifeſted a peculiar alacrity at *ſinking*, whether in proſaic or poetical compoſition.

* Having been engaged by a noble lord, a botanical amateur, to bring him from Spain a collection of rare plants ; PHILL, conjecturing that his lordſhip knew as little of botany as himſelf, (in which, however, he was miſtaken) thought he had a good opportunity of pocketing a few guineas without a farthing expence ; picked up a few weeds in the neighbourhood of Chatterton's Cave, and ſent to his lordſhip, as Spaniſh *Indigenæ* ; but having reckoned without his hoſt, he made up for his diſappointment as well as he could, and wrote a pamphlet againſt the noble lord (C.) ; but having lampooned half the Houſe of Peers, (in which he was ſometimes aſſiſted by his Patient Grizzle) the rage for novelty was exhauſted, the pamphlet did not ſell, and his friend Mrs. Davies muſt abide by the loſs, well knowing that you can get no more of the cat than the ſkin.

‡ His obſtetrical experience among his female patients in Wales, where the doctor was a little out of luck in his operations, convinced him at laſt, that nature was the beſt midwife ; and to compenſate for his own blunders, he, in a methodiſtical fit of compunction, wrote a powerful diſſuaſive againſt the employment of men-midwives, (for which his friend Dr. Bolus, junior, of Titchfield, Hants, has been much offended with him) in ſo much, that the whole corps was in danger of utter ſtarvation : A new edition of this *excellent* work is very much wanted.

As a man, whatever be his natural or acquired talents, ſhould he be one of thoſe

§ His celebrated and *infallible* cure for the gout, compoſed of hemlock and wolf's bane, may be had, *dog cheap*, as it is neither licenced nor ſtamped, at his lodgings, No. 1, Knightſbridge, he having become ſo noxious to the people at Bath, that his quondam habitation, the *Hermitage*, became at length too hot to hold him. He was beſide in arrear for rent, which he will not ſoon be able to diſcharge.

The caſes of cures performed by this celebrated remedy, as authenticated by *genuine* affidavits, may be ſeen at the aforeſaid place of his abode; and where he will deliver (gratis) a lecture on the powers of this celebrated compoſition in diſeaſes, curable and *incurable*.

|| The celebrated Dr. *Arbuthnot* wrote a treatiſe on the altercation and ſcolding of the ancients; but thoſe venerable ſages, though they carried the art to a conſiderable degree of perfection, muſt now hide their diminiſhed heads, when put into competition with our modern. His altercative and vituperative rhetoric, after having been exerciſed with uncommon ſucceſs againſt individuals of every rank, from the crown to the cottage, centred at laſt in his own family.

With reſpect to the noble peer, his relation, *he*, with that candour, delicacy, and paternal tenderneſs, which conſtitute ſo eſſential a trait in his character, has commemorated a *trifling* faux pas in that ancient and *moſt reſpectable family*: And with regard to another ſcion of the ſame ſtock, there is an odd ſtory of a bond and affidavit, which has not yet been ſatisfactorily explained to the public, but which he will certainly deem it his duty to do in the moſt clear, explicit, and deciſive manner.

obſcure

obſcure beings whom *no body knows*, cannot be held in any degree of eſtimation by thoſe whom *every body knows*; You, *Great* Sir, are exempted from this opprobrium; for your acquaintance is very general, not only in this kingdom, but even in many parts of the continent; (ſome perſons have however invidiouſly alledged that you are more known than truſted); but it redounds alſo very much to your honour, that you are nearly related to a peer of the realm, with whom you have ever maintained the moſt affectionate and truly *paternal* intercourſe.

In the humbleſt, but not the leaſt uſeful walks of literature, you excel all your predeceſſors and cotemporaries; and will, undoubtedly, all your ſucceſſors.

For even here you manifeſt the verſatility of your genius, by accommodating, with critical preciſion, your ſtyle to your ſubject.

In ſhort to ſum up the ſuperlative accompliſhments of this celebrated Gout Doctor, Rape and Murder-Monger, it may be ſufficient to ſay, in the language of a celebrated critic, that, like *Virgil*, he ſcatters his *dung* with an air of majeſty.

Thus

Thus you diſplay the minute and circumſtantial in your deſcription of a *rape*; the *energetic* in your detail of a boxing or cudgeling match; the *frothy* and turgid in your account of a birth-day at court, a funeral proceſſion at Billingſgate, a lord mayor's ſhow, a royal promenade, or a ſham fight by ſea or land; the *pathetic*, when you deſcribe the circumſtance of a bloody murder; and the pretty and pithy, when you give an account of the price of butter and eggs—in the St. James's Chronicle.

Come we now to your public and private virtues:

Having ſucceeded the celebrated ISAAC BICKERSTAFF, you have, for more than half a century, filled the office of *cenſor general* with great eclat. This office, ſo neceſſary to the preſervation of good order in ſociety, ought certainly to have a ſalary annexed to it, equal at leaſt to that of hiſtoriographer or poet laureat; and it is much to be lamented, that almoſt worn out as you are, in the ſervice of your dear country, none of your numerous pupils, though daily benefiting by your lectures and example,

ple, will ever attain your excellence in the noble *arts* of *lying* and *defamation*.

Of your *loyalty* you have given many proofs, eſpecially in a periodical paper publiſhed ſome years ago, but with that innate modeſty peculiar to true greatneſs of ſoul, without the name either of author, printer or publiſher; thereby patriotically evading that exaltation of character annexed to a niche in the *pillory*; a more rare inſtance of ſelf-denial, as it has ſometimes been followed by a *penſion*.

A HOWARD and a NECKAR have ſhrunk from *monumental* diſtinction !!!

Of your patriotic ſpirit and *love of liberty* your vindications of *ſlavery* afford undeniable proof. *

Of your private virtues you derived many from nature, and will be faithfully repreſented in that *excellent* youth your youngeſt ſon.

He peculiarly inherits your meekneſs, modeſty, candour, veracity, charity, and in-

* He has had an utter averſion to theſe poor people ſince they put him in bodily fear in Jamaica.

trepidity

trepidity of ſpirit; and ſhould he ever, happily for this country, exerciſe the duties of a parent, he will certainly imitate ſo *bright* an example, in the diſplay of tenderneſs, indulgence, and affection towards his offspring.

With a profuſion of univerſal knowledge, your character could not have been compleat, had you not ſuper-added thoſe accompliſhments which, though vainly arrogated by the beau and macaroni, concenter in you; I mean thoſe of *a fine gentleman*, ſo graphically deſcribed by a late celebrated *peer*, who was himſelf the great exemplar.

Your knowledge of life and manners is moſt extenſive; for no man has ſtudied them with more ardour and ſucceſs.

You have reſorted to the tables of the great, and the night-houſes of St. Giles's, where by your WIT, your humour, and your convivial talents, you have ever been the fool or the fiddle of you rcompany, whether *peers* or *porters*, and from a diverſity of ſources, have "caught the living manners

as

as they roſe," and acquired that fund of *wordly* wiſdom, by which you have amazed, inſtructed, and aſtoniſhed mankind.

How deficient ſoever we may have been in doing juſtice to ſo accompliſhed a character as *yours*, we muſt at leaſt ſtand acquitted by the public of any ſuſpicion of fulſome panegyric.

We have the honour to be,

Great, and (what is more) *Good*, Sir,

The moſt devoted of your ſlaves,

BENJAMIN GOOSEQUILL,
PETER PARAGRAPH.

Shoulder of Mutton,
Pudding Lane.

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEREAS the Author of the Medical Cautions hath threatened us, the ſubſcribers, with a proſecution for publiſhing the following eſſay; and for advertiſing the life and adventures of the ſaid Author, as if he were actually deceaſed; whereas he hath taken his Bible Oath before a magiſtrate, at the expence of one ſhilling, that he is actually and bona fide in the land of the living, though, as he confeſſeth, a very uſeleſs member of ſociety. And whereas Dr. PHILIP THICKNESSE, of Knightſbridge, and Dr. TICKELL, of Bath, have jointly, with the celebrated Dr. FREEMAN, of Hatton-Garden, entered into a co-partnerſhip tripartite, for the purpoſe of preparing, preſcribing, diſpenſing, and vending certain infallible noſtrums, for one of which his Majeſty's Royal Patent hath been obtained at a very great expence, and will be obtained for the others, (as ſoon as ſufficient caſh ſhall be raiſed for the purpoſe, from the ſale of the

the ſaid noſtrums, all genuine unadulterated poiſons) have joined in the ſaid threat.

Now, WE, ſubmitting the juſtice of our cauſe to the laws of our dear country, and to an impartial public, jointly reply, to the ſaid cautioning doctor, and to this tripartite coalition of quacks, and humbly preſume to inform the ſaid public, that we have depoſited ſecurity bonds to the amount of 20,000l. granted by a number of as *good* men as frequent the Royal Exchange; that being the ſum we underſtand, which will be laid in damages by them, in his Majeſty's Court of King's Bench; and therefore ſhall bear the printers, publiſhers, venders, and readers of the ſaid works harmleſs, and exempted from all damages whatſoever, ſave only bloody noſes, cracked ſkulls, bruiſes, fractures, *poiſonings*, or mortal wounds inflicted on them by the ſaid doctor, and the ſaid bloody-minded quacks; for which, however, the ſaid ſufferers may have ample legal remedy.

But farther, *In Primis*, reſpecting the ſaid cautioning doctor, we moſt humbly apprehend, that he can have no excluſive property

in the ſaid M. S. S. he being, as we can prove, on the affidavits of ſix moſt learned phyſicians, actually non-compos, alias whimſey-headed, lunatic, crazy, or mad; and from the teſtimony of certain reſpectable perſons who have known him theſe 40 years, that he never was otherwiſe, to the immenſe injury and loſs of his Majeſty's liege ſubjects, not only by his whimſical, dangerous, and deleterious medical practice, but of thoſe whom he hath deſtroyed by cudgel, ſword, piſtol, or bodily-fear. From which conſiderations thereunto them moving, he hath been juſtly and wiſely rejected by a certain very reſpectable maiden lady, and no leſs reſpectable truſtees, and counſel learned in the law, who with a degree of *delicacy*, *honour*, and *probity*, rarely known in this ſelfiſh and venal age, did, after long and learned conſultations, finally determine, that certain matrimonial propoſitions made by the ſaid Author, were of ſuch a nature, as could not be the act and deed of a man in his right mind; they, after *moſt earneſtly* endeavouring to induce him to recede from certain of the ſaid propoſitions, but in vain, did reject and diſmiſs

him

him from all connubial pretenſions to the ſaid lady; not only becauſe they could not be deemed valid in law, but farther, on account of the extreme hazard and danger to the ſaid lady from antenuptial or poſtnuptial aſſault and battery of what kind or denomination ſoever: But alſo from the farther conſideration of irreparable injury to the progeny of the ſaid marriage, in their intellectual faculties, to the 40th generation, more eſpecially as the paternal madneſs would be combined with a very conſiderable portion of maternal poetical furor, which has ever been deemed an incurable ſpecies of lunacy.

But, farther, a lunatic not being amenable to the law, for any tranſgreſſion whatſoever, even murder or treaſon, as we are inſtructed by our learned counſel, we conceive that the property of a whimſey-headed author cannot be ſecured to himſelf by any law now exiſting.

And, ſecondly, ſo far as regardeth the threats of ſaid partners, for the publication of certain patent receipts, and the names, nature, and doſes of the *poiſons*, which

which will be added to the *materia virulenta* of the ſaid partners, we are inſtructed that no action will lie.

And whereas Dr. THICKNESSE hath made oath that a certain REMEMORANDRUM JURNAL, ſo called, hath been ſurreptitiouſly and feloniouſly obtained and detained from him the ſaid T. and hath aſſerted that the ſaid *jurnal* is his ſole proſpect, being the labour of 60 years, and hath forbidden us from publiſhing the ſame, or any part thereof, at our peril; we anſwer, *noſtro fiat periculo.* The indulgent public will aſſuredly favour the ſale of theſe works, when they ſhall be informed that the preſent *moderate* impreſſion, not conſiſting of more than 20,000 copies, and all future editions to the 20th, after defraying the expences of printing, reaſonable emoluments to the editors, and certain douceurs to *critics*, who, to the great edification of the public, decide on the merit of literary productions, whether in reviews, magazines, coffee-houſes, tea-tables, newſpapers, or ale-houſes, will be applied to public charity; and thereafter to the 500th edition toward paying the laſt national tontine; the

editors

editors being a little leſs ſanguine than a certain cautioning doctor, who declared that the produce of his prolific brain would go near to pay off the whole national debt, a gaſconade for which he was juſtly chaſtiſed by his empirical antagoniſts.

The editors beg leave to aſſure the public, that they are now employing gentlemen of the firſt abilities in tranſlating the ſaid work into every language of the world, known or *unknown*, and therefore it will be allowed that their expectations reſpecting emoluments ariſing from the ſale of the ſaid works, are founded on the moſt reaſonable grounds; and truſt they ſhall be encouraged and ſupported by all genuine *blue* and *buff* patriots, who, by their unremitting zeal and inceſſant efforts to ſuſtain and ſupport the heaven-born ſpark of liberty, have hitherto preſerved their dear country from inevitable ruin.

BENJAMIN GOOSEQUILL,
PETER PARAGRAPH.

Shoulder of Mutton,
Pudding-Lane.

INTRO-

INTRODUCTION.

WHILST we were at our breakfaſt of bread, cheeſe, and porter, in our apartment, up three pair of ſtairs, in the pariſh of St. Giles's, we were ſucceſſively viſited by ſeveral claimants, for ſome ſtrayed literary property; and have thrown the converſation which paſſed on the occaſion in the form of dialogue, which we have termed dramatic, not becauſe it is fraught with wit or humour, for of thoſe ſuppoſed requiſites it is as deſtitute as any modern comedy whatſoever, and indeed the learned critics know well, that bright ſallies of this kind can only be the fruits of eaſe and good humour; neither of which could predominate in a converſation carried on with clamorous contention, tremendous threats, and dire defiance.

B. G.
P. P.

A DRA-

A

DRAMATIC DIALOGUE,

Between the following Perſonages:

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Dr. THICKNESSE,
Dr. FREEMAN,
Dr. TICKELL,
} *Quack Doctors.*

Mr. BENJAMIN GOOSEQUILL, *an Author by Profeſſion.*

PETER PARAGRAPH, *a Journeyman Printer.*

F. G.

SCENE—a Garret, in St. Giles's.

SCENE I.

B. G. IT'S confoundedly cold this morning, Peter; can't you contrive to get another buſhel upon tick?

P. P. No, an 'twere to ſave me from the gallows.

B. G. How ſhall we boil the tea-kettle?

P. P. What d'ye want wi' the kettle?

B. G. To make breakfaſt to be ſure.

P.P. Where are ye to find it?

B. G. Oh the old woman at the chandler's ſhop will truſt us.

P. P. The devil a hap'orth; our credit is crack'd, unleſs you can gin a pawn: ſuppoſe you ſend your ſilver ſhoe buckles.

B. G. No, hang it, I can't do without *them*; I am to *call* on the Nabob, with a dedication of my vindication of Mr. ——.

P. P. Don't ye know that ſtrings are all the tong in *France*, and the bucks, beaus, and macaroons here wear nothing elſe: our neibour the pawn-broker tells me as how he never had ſo many ſhoe and knee buckles ſince he has been in the trade; becaaſe a man can't pawn a coat, a waiſtcoat, a hat, or a ſhirt, without their being miſſed; but a buck can do as well without buckles, as a coach without a fifth wheel.

B. G. I am no buck.

P. P. Buck or no buck we muſt hae belly timber; and we may as well hae ſome bread and cheeſe and a pint of porter; hang your waſhy ſtuff, there's no ſubſtance in tea: Gie

me

me the buckles, and I'll go and ſee if I can raiſe the wind. [*Exit.*

G. B. (ſolus). How deplorable the condition of an author! Would I had been bred a cobler or a ſcavanger: Educated in a ſtyle ſuperior to my ſcanty fortune, my mental acquirements have been my bane; they have exaſperated my conſtitutional ſenſibility; for, by aſſociating with men of fortune, I not only acquired a reliſh for pleaſures, to enjoy which I waſted my own little modicum; but have ſubjected myſelf, to ſecure a ſcanty and precarious ſubſiſtence, to all the caprice, whim, and inſolence of others; and am, at this inſtant, on the point of ſacrificing my integrity and peace of mind to my urgent neceſſities, by vindicating a cauſe my ſoul abhors, in direct violation of the dictates of my conſcience—But it is not yet too late to recede, and—

P. P. (opening the door). Here I be, come let us fall to, I'm curſed hungry—Ecod, I had like to hae forgot, here's a letter for you.

B. G. (after reading it) What reaſon have I to be thankful that Providence hath ſnatched me from the precipice, and that I am ſtill

an honeſt man! and *(throwing a M.S. into the fire)* ſuch I am determined to continue to the end of life. Peter, this letter contains ſome good news; and I am determined that you, who have been the faithful ſharer of my adverſity, ſhall benefit by my proſperity. I am informed, that an old uncle, my mother's brother, who would not have given me ſixpence to have ſaved me from ſtarving, has, by his will, left me a competency; finiſh your meal, and go and get ſixpence more on the buckles, and buy a ſtamp.

P. P. A ſtamp, for what, your honour?

B. G. Don't honour me: I am authoriſed by this letter to draw for a ſupply of caſh, and you muſt go and receive it.

P. P. A good hearing, 'faith! [*Exit.*

SCENE II.

Dr. *Thickneſſe*, *(from without)*. Damm them there dark narrow ſtares, I have broke my ſhin, and ad like to have broke my neck; I can't find the latch of the door.

B. G.

B. G. (within). My old friend Phill, as I live; as for your neck, had it been broken, any how, fifty years ago, the world would have been fairly rid of a raſcal. *(Opens the door)* Ha! Mr. Thickneſſe, how do you do? I did not expect this honour, conſidering the terms on which we laſt parted.

T. Doctor, if you pleaſe, Sir.

B. G. I aſk your pardon; which of the learned profeſſions is it that has had the honour of enrolling you? a doctor of laws you are not, unleſs a breach of them could be admitted as a juſt claim; a doctor in divinity you can't well be, for it is ſo well known that you are an infidel, that even a Scotch univerſity would not ſell you a diploma in that faculty; beſides you never have been a member of any univerſity, but Hockley in the Hole, or St. George's Fields.

T. Brother *Freeman* ga' me a teſtificate of my learning and knowledge, and I had my dipplomy by the *male* coach; it coſt a deviliſh deal of money though; and a was obliged to pawn *Struenſee's* head to *Freeman* before a would lend me the caſh; howſom-

dever,

dever, he'll pay himſelf by ſhowing it at ſix-pence a head.

B. G. But what will you do in the mean time for a morſel of bread? for I am told you have loſt your other reſource, the ſelling a deſcription of the Hermitage to entitle the purchaſer to ſee *Chatterton*'s Cave, and the ſtone coffin, in which you have depoſited your daughter to ſave the parſon's fees. The people of Bath ſeem to be glad they have got you out of their neighbourhood; for the boys burnt you in effigy the laſt 5th of November, inſtead of the *Pope* and the *Pretender*. But where have you been ſince?

T. I hae been travelling about picking up anecdotes about that damned feller; I think I put a ſpoke in his wheel.

B. G. Whoſe wheel, Phill?

T. Not quite ſo familiar, brother Gooſe; I mean the Author of the Medical Cautions: I hae broke off his match wi a rich ould maid.

B. G. How did you do him that good office?

T. By writing a *nonymous* letter, telling them he was a raſcal.

B. G.

B. G. *Anonymous* you mean; you have been a writer more than half a century, and yet can neither write nor pronounce your own language: You are a good hand at anonymous letters I know, but have you no compunction when you injure innocent and reſpectable characters?

T. I tould a relation of her'n that the feller was a begger; and wou'd impoſe himſelf for a man of fortune; and that he had been mad.

B. G. Enough to break off any match, had a ſingle word of what you aſſerted been true.

T. What does it argify whether it was true or no? I do ſuppoſe a made the dog as made as the devil, for a wrot'n that young *Bolus* was courting his miſtreſs, and that they chuckled and toyed an kiſſed over my dedication to him. I think a tickell'd the blockhed.

G. I ſuppoſe that was not true either; though I fancy he does not care who toys with the lady; provided *he* is not obliged to undertake the office himſelf.

T. A does though, for am tould it made him

him mad as a March hare: A only ſaid it to vex'n, an I knows my friend *Dicky* longs to be a'ter her, and ſure as a gun it will be a match. I'm a good hand at match making.

B. G. So it ſeems by the match you made in your own family. Have you paid Dick *Sott* the 20l. you promiſed him? That was a horrid buſineſs, Phill.

T. All's one for that, its no concernment o'yours, Maſter Gooſey.

B. G. But tell me honeſtly, Phill, had you the cruelty to write this man a lie about the toying buſineſs?

T. Yes ſure a did; what ſignifies a fibb now an tan.

B. G. In you opinion, I believe, falſehood is preferable to truth, becauſe it gratifies your malignity; but, now you are on the verge of the grave, and muſt ſoon account, not merely for a miſ-ſpent, but an iniquitous life, in which your hand has been againſt every man and woman, from the crown to the cottage, and even your own children have not eſcaped your ſcurrilous pen; the proſpect muſt be dreadful! Had you ſtuck

to

to your honeſt trade of a *cooper*, to which you was bred; or had you continued clerk to Whitfield's chapel, in Georgia, you would have ſunk ſilently into the grave, without that opprobrium which muſt now purſue your memory; for, on the face of the globe, you will not leave behind you your fellow: It has pleaſed the Supreme, no doubt, for the wiſeſt purpoſes, to permit the exiſtence of ſuch examples of extreme depravity, as a leſſon of humility to frail man; but thanks be to his goodneſs, that ſuch monſters as a *Cataline*, a *Nero*, a *Caligula*, a *Heliogabalus*, a *Pope*, *Alexander* the VIth, a *Cæſar Borgia*, a *Jonathan Wild*, or a ——, occur but rarely, otherwiſe human ſociety could not exiſt.

T. Ecod, I thinks ye would hae made a good methodiſt parſon; and ye had better take it up when all other trades fail: But ye hae been a hireling ſcribbler for a good many years I know, have you never made free with any man's *carackter?*

B. G. I have ſometimes chaſtiſed knaves great and little, but I thank my God I never traduced a *fair* character; though I own, with ſhame and confuſion, that I was on

the point of doing ſomething not much leſs iniquitous.

T. What was that?

B. G. Endeavouring to white-waſh a *foul* one. But an over-ruling power interpoſed, and ſaved me from an act of which I ſhould never have ceaſed to repent. But pray what great offence had the doctor committed againſt you, that you took ſo ſevere a vengeance on him?

T. He wrote a thing againſt us; and againſt my friends *Freeman* and *Tickell.*

B. G. Oh, I forgot; you mean your brethren the quacks: How goes on your hemlock and wolf's bane?

T. Not ſo well as a cou'd wiſh: My chief patient in the weſt is not cured, and I am out of faſhion.

B. G. You gout doctors are rather unfortunate; *Le Fevre* and *Jay* have had their day; and *your* ſun ſeems to be ſet: But the doctor, as a regular phyſician, only did his duty. He ſpared you, however, in his firſt edition.

T. But I have not ſpared him.

B. G. Better you had; there is a rod in ſteep for you, and I am ſurpriſed you ventured

ventured to wage war on ſuch unequal terms; he is an over-match for all your fraternity; and has given empiriciſm ſuch a blow as it never met with before.

T. We don't valor him a pinch o'ſnuff; *as long as there be fools*, we ſhall thrive in ſpite o'he and the College.

B. G. The world begins to be wiſer: Nations are hurling *regal* quacks from their thrones; and every other kind of quacks will ſoon follow: This is the age of reformation, and it is to be hoped, that all abuſes will be done away.

T. A finds, by a thing of his juſt come out, that he'll give us another ſlap; but I'll be even with him; I'll print a new preface and dedication to my memoirs; and pay him off.

B. G. That's one of your old tricks, Phill, but it won't do; you had better print off a new title-page too, and make a tenth edition of the firſt: But why will you wage ſuch unequal war? Many of his friends were of opinion, when he deigned to take notice of you, he loaded a blunderbuſs to kill a louſe, contemptible as you are, not only

in ability as a writer, but in your character as a man: But his motive was nevertheleſs laudable. I have the M. S. in my poſſeſſion, and intend to publiſh it; but as the Author forgot to write the dedication, my friend Peter and I intend to do it, and to add ſome tickling notes.

T. You have the M. S. How came you by it?

B. G. That is no concern of your's; but you know I owe you an old grudge for the trick you played me with the editor of the European Magazine.

T. If ſo be as how you be determined to publiſh it, let's go ſnacks.

B. G. When I knew not where to procure a morſel of bread, I was determined to fulfil the intention of the Author, and ſurely now I am an independent man, I will appropriate it to that charity he wiſhed ſhould have the benefit of it, and it won't ſell the worſe for having the patent preſcriptions of ſome of the moſt celebrated quack medicines, and ſome extracts from your Rememorandrum Jurnal, as you call it.

T.

T. I loſt my Jurnal ſure enough; but how the devil came you by it? I would not hae loſt it for a 1000l.

B. G. My friend Peter, who will be here preſently, will reſtore it to you for as many pence; but here he comes, I believe, I know his ſtep on the ſtairs.

T. Damm your ſtairs; gie me a piece of brown paper to clap to my ſhin.

B. G. You had better clap on a plaiſter of hemlock or wolf's bane.

B. P. *(opening the door).* Here I comes; did not you think I had run away wi' the money?

B. G. Not I, indeed, friend Peter.

P. P. Ecod, I never had ſo much money in my life; here's 20 new guineas; I held it cloſe in my fiſt, for fear they ſhould pick my pocket.

B. G. To be ſure we are not in the moſt creditable neighbourhood; but I find an Engliſhman can make a bull upon occaſion as well as an Iriſhman. Here, Peter, you know what we owe, take the money and pay off all our debts, and give our poor landlady a guinea beſides.

T.

T. I muſt hae a little talk with Maſter Peter before he goes.

P. P. Well, Sir, what's your commands wi' me?

T. I am tould you have found my Rememorandrum Jurnal.

P. P. What then?

T. Why, as how you muſt give it me back again.

P. P. There muſt be two words to that bargain; I intend to print it, and Maſter Gooſequill promiſed to correct the ſpelling, and make Engliſh of it.

B. G. That's a taſk I cannot now undertake. Mr. T. will give you 1000l. for it.

P. P. *He* 1000l. where the devil ſhould he get it?

T. Mr. Gooſequill will be my ſecurity.

B. G. Not I, on ſuch an occaſion, were it ſo many pence: It is ſuch a farrago of ſcurrilous and malignant ſtuff, that it ſhall never ſee the light, until I commit it to the flames; however, Peter ſhall be no loſer; he ſhall have more than it is worth, which is indeed not equal to the fraction of a farthing; but I ſee you have collected *anecdotes* as you call them

them againſt a man of whoſe memoirs, character and vindication I am, by chance, likely to be the editor, and am therefore ſo far intereſted for my hero, as to deſire you will candidly tell me what circumſtance could have provoked you to the malignant perſecution of this man.

T. Firſt and foremoſt he wrote a damned letter from Liege againſt ſomething I had ſaid about them there Jeſuits.

B. G. There was a time when you dared as well to have hanged yourſelf, as have wagged your tongue, or your pen either, againſt that order in the *Pays Bas*, *ſed tempora mutantur*.

T. Anan?

B. G. Oh! I did not recollect that you are one of thoſe authors who undertake to inſtruct the public, without underſtanding any one language on the face of the earth. But I am told you was ſo deteſted there, that at Bruſſels they had public rejoicings when you left it; and that though you pretended to make the Prince de —— a preſent of a pair of piſtols, which *you ſaid* had belonged to *John*, the great *Duke of Marlborough*, he could

could not perſuade the Britiſh Miniſter to admit you within his doors; for which you abuſed him in that vehicle of *your* ſcandal, the St. James's Chronicle; and re-demanded the piſtols, but that is an old trick of your's, to make preſents and take them back again; but that is not the worſt of your tricks: Well; what elſe?

T. A ſaid I could'nt write Latin, French, or Engliſh.

B. G. You told him ſo yourſelf.

T. Me! It's a damn'd lie; I ne'er ſaid ſo in a my born days.

B. G. Pray did not you publiſh a letter addreſſed to him?

T. A did, and a tickler it was.

B. G. It is evident from that precious piece of ſcurrility and dulneſs, that you are totally ignorant of all theſe languages: Who ſcours your filthy rags now, Phill, and tranſlates your jargon into Engliſh, ſince you quarrelled with your old friend C——s? I ſuppoſe the compoſitor corrects the ſpelling, as well as the language.

T. He would not lend me his name to puff off my infallable gout pills.

B. G. And

B. G. And had you the impudence to make ſo modeſt a requeſt to a regular phyſician?

T. He a regular phyſician; why the feller has been a footman, and ſtole a ſilver ſpoon; has been a munkebank doctor, and a Scotch pedlar, and a rebel.

B. G. I would as ſoon believe *you* to be a Chriſtian and an Archbiſhop: He writes like a ſcholar, and I am verily perſuaded he has always acted like a gentleman. I wiſh I could ſay ſo much in your behalf. What is the next charge.

T. He woud'nt *perſcribe* for my daughter.

B. G. Happily for him he did not, otherwiſe you would have laid her death to his charge. But if you had ſo bad an opinion of this man, as to believe he could merit the character you now give him, what infatuation could lead you to aſk the advice of ſuch a perſon for a favourite child? You muſt either acknowledge that you was deficient in your duty to her, or that you are a baſe calumniator of this man's character: But I am credibly informed, that you formerly not

only recommended him as a phyſician, but ſpoke well of him as a man.

T. But that was before we quarrell'd.

B. G. Ingenuouſly confeſſed, Phill; ſo that without regard to truth or juſtice, *you*, as it may ſerve your purpoſe, or gratify your revenge, convert a man of character into a villain. Did not you endeavour to injure his ſon in the opinion of the profeſſors at Edinburgh? Had *he* ever offended you?

T. All's fair againſt an enemy.

B. G. A diabolical maxim; your conduct to this innocent young man, whom you formerly profeſſed to eſteem, richly deſerved the diſcipline of a horſe-pond, or a niche in the pillory.

T. He ſaid as how I run away from the wild *Negers* at Jamaica.

B. G. That ſtory was told to fifty people at Bath, many years ago, by a very reſpectable gentleman from that iſland, and you have lately confirmed the truth of the ſtory by your own contradictory account of it.

T. He ſaid I extorted penſions by threatening

ening to publiſh confidential correſpondence.*

B. G. That I know you have boaſted of, though you have not of another buſineſs of the ſame ſort, which did not end quite ſo much to the credit of your military ſpirit.†

T. He called me a noſtram monger, and a rape and murder monger.

B. G. That you vend noſtrums is well known: A murder monger you may be in more ſenſes then one; he may have meant either your vocation as a collector of rapes and murders for the Chronicle, or the ho-

* This ſtory is well-known, indeed he has often told it himſelf. He artfully inſinuated himſelf into the good graces of a very reſpectable peer, and drew him into a correſpondence. T. has ſaid that he had promiſed to provide for him, ſhould he ever again get into adminiſtration, and that when he did, he neglected him. The truth ſeems to be, that his lordſhip was aſhamed of patroniſing ſuch a man. Phill, enraged, threatened to publiſh their correſpondence; and his lordſhip compromiſed the buſineſs by an annuity.

† The late Col. *Walſh* made no ſecret of this ſtory. T. had, as his friend *Curl* had often done before him, procured ſome private correſpondence, of which he intended to make a penny. The gentleman concerned had not ſpirit enough to call him out; but a friend did; and Phill, rather than fight, gave up the letters.

It was generally ſuppoſed the Colonel himſelf had called him out on the occaſion, in behalf of his friend.

micide you commit by your pills; for in any other ſenſe he could not ſuſpect you of murder; unleſs it were of reputations, of which, indeed, you have been a mercileſs aſſaſſin.

T. He wou'd'nt let me publiſh his travels wi my account of the Pays Bas.

B. G. He could have gained no credit by adding his name to your's.

T. He ſaid as how I writ hymns and ſpiritual ſongs.

B. G. I believe there he was miſtaken; you was never ſo well employed. In the poetical way I believe you never got beyond a St. Giles's ballad. Do you continue your old trade of writing dying ſpeeches?

T. No, I'm cut out there; the Ordinary, dam'n, has ta'en that patch of work into his own hands; manys the good time an often I hae made a comfitible meal out of a dying ſpeech and confeſſion.

P. P. Pray, Maſter T. did'nt you once ſend an old woman out of Monmouthſhire on a fool's errand to Newcaſtle, a'ter a legacy; and had a poor man put into the Baſtile,

ſtile, by telling lies of him, where a had like to ha been hanged for a traitor?

T. What's that to you, blockhead?

P. P. I am no blockhead, and I am an honeſt man; I never ſet people together by the ears. Do you remember the letter you ſent to a gentleman and his wife with ſome excrement, making them believe Dr. A. ſent it?

B. G. Surely, Phill, that can't be true?

P. P. True as goſpel I ſay, and I can prove it.

B. G. Had you then held a commiſſion in his Majeſty's army, you would have been kicked out of the corps as a blackguard and a ſcoundrel, and ought to have been drummed out of the regiment, crowned with a cloſe-ſtool pan, and ſouſed in a bog-houſe.

P. P. A ſends pieces of brown paper, put up like letters, to make people pay poſtage.

B. G. A mean raſcally piece of vengeance, which I am told he has practiced even againſt perſons who never offended him, otherwiſe than by treating his ſcurrilities with ſilent contempt: He might as well filch a ſhilling, a handkerchief, or a watch, from

from them. I find among the papers now in my hands a copy of a letter, which is an anſwer to one of your's to this man, now in priſon: What right had you to inſult him? He is there, I am told, on an occaſion which never could have happened to you; for tho' you have viſited jails pretty frequently, you have always kept out of fighting ſcrapes.

T. I only offerd en bale.

B. G. So he told you had his equally *reſpectable* friend, Maſter *Ting*, the thief-taker, who is ſo much your ſuperior, that he would have diſdained the act with which my friend has charged you. I fancy his anſwer has cured you of writing any more impertinent letters. What did your meek and patient rib ſay to the affair of the Banbury *doxy?*

T. Damn'n, that was all ſpite.

P. P. I fancy your noſe is kept pretty cloſe to the *grind-ſtone* at home, Maſter T. you hae no occaſion to go further a-field.

B. G. I am told you ſent your young hopeful to inſult the Doctor in the card-room at Bath.

T. A did, and I gaen a guinea for it.

B. G.

B. G. You ought rather to have well diſdiſciplined him with a horſe-whip for his impudence: Pray have you paid your old friend C——s at Bruſſels for this boy's education; it is moſt probable you have not, and that is the reaſon of your quarrel; at leaſt you had the aſſurance to ſend your brat to a very reſpectable gentleman of the navy, ſo bare of every neceſſary, that he was obliged to expend many pounds in equipping him; and ſome months ago you had not repaid him a farthing: You had better have reſerved the guinea to help pay your debts. But having heard all your allegations againſt the Author of the Medical Cautions, it is evident that he never gave you any cauſe of offence, till you gave him ſuch provocation, *unmerited* provocation, as was intolerable to any man of ſpirit; and you are, I know, indebted for your perſonal ſafety merely to the conſideration that you had forfeited all claim to the rank, or reſentment, of a gentleman.

T. Wont ye gie me my Rememorandrum *Jurnal?*

B. G. I will not.

T. I'll

T. I'll ſue you then, and ſo ſhall them there gemmen, if you publiſh their receipts by the King's patent.

B. G. Tell your friend TICKELL I have got his, and certainly ſhall publiſh it; and that I defy the whole hoſt of Quacks; and deſpiſe you as their champion.

[*Exit Thickneſſe.*

P. P. A thinks ye ſent'n away wi a flea in his ear.

B. G. Hang the fellow, he has often been well flea-bitten when he had not a ſecond ſhirt to his back.

(Knocking without.) *B. G.* Peter, open the door.

Enter F. G. One would think, gentlemen, you were retainers to the muſes, by the height of your habitation, and that you travelled thus far to ſhorten your journey to the top of Parnaſſus: But pray which of you, gentlemen, is Mr. Paragraph?

P. P. I be, at your ſervice.

F. G. I am told you have got ſome property that is not entirely your right.

P. P. What, d'ye think as how I be a thief; take care what ye ſay; for if ſo be ye

ye can't prove your words, I'll take the law o'ye.

F. G. I am come to demand property that does not, I believe, come under the cognizance of law; for if literary thefts were puniſhable, I know not what would become of us authors.

P. P. O yere an author be ye; I nere ſtole any thing in my born days.

F. G. Then, Mr. Paragraph, we'll put matters upon a more reſpectable footing: You have *found* ſomething that does not belong to you, and will, I am ſure, reſtore it to its right owner: You found, I am told, a large parcel of papers.

P. P. Are they your's?

F. G. They chiefly belong to another perſon, who has deputed me to lay in his claim.

P. P. Why does n't come himſelf?

F. G. Becauſe he is in confinement.

B. G. That is the fate of many of us brethren of the quill.

F. G. The maxim "ne ſutor ultra crepidam," is ſalutary; but in the mixed character of this friend of mine, which is half civil,

and half military, the latter has unfortunately predominated, and he found himſelf more diſpoſed to fight with, than to write at, his antagoniſt; whilſt the latter, more prudently, declining the ſword, has thought proper to wield the *certiorari*.

B. G. I wonder government don't ſend theſe troubleſome fellows to Botany Bay, where they may exerciſe their prowels in defence of the infant colony againſt the invaſions of the Aborigines.

F. G. To ſay the truth, my friend has ſome expectations that this may be his fate, and has been providing for more than a poſſible contingency.

B. G. How pray?

F. G. By providing himſelf a female helpmate; which, *old* as he is, is become as neceſſary to him, from habit, as many other ſuperfluities: Now there is a good tight wench, a fellow priſoner, who is to pay a viſit to the ſaid colony for fourteen years, *only for having received ſtolen goods*; he has made his propoſals to the ſaid lady, *who is undoubtedly a virgin*; and this match is the more agreeable to him, as it may be effected without

without the intervention of the gentlemen of the law, for many of whom, however, he has great reſpect, both as honeſt men and gentlemen: ſhe, very generouſly, *relying on his bare promiſe*, there being no fortune, *principal or intereſt*, to ſettle on the lady, no dower to adjuſt, no bonds to be given, or *mortgages to be pledged*; and as for proviſion for the children of the marriage, he has found out a ſalvo for that *ſore* alſo; for having, on incontrovertible philoſophical, and medical principles, diſcovered that each female can diſpenſe with the benevolence, whether nuptial or illicit, of ſeven males, and knowing well the dearth of females in the new colony, he has only contracted for a proportional ſhare of the connubial property; ſo that the children will become the property of the public; though it might not be much leſs difficult to aſcertain the individuality of the parent, than at preſent, even where there is by the laws of the land only one father allotted. It appears, however, that in this eſtimate of female ſuſceptibility, or rather capability, he differs widely from his *good friend*, the author of

THELYPTHORA, who, conſcious perhaps of *ſupernatural* powers, has reverſed the calculation; for which the *ladies* are *not* much obliged to him.

B. G. You talk of your friend's expectation of going to Botany Bay; on what can this be founded; there is no law—

F. G. There is no law; but there may be.

B. G. But with reſpect to him it muſt be *ex poſt facto*; it muſt be contrary to *Magna Charta.*

F. G. What then? The *Hampſhire* patriots, knowing what a peſtilent fellow he is, and that if once let looſe, he may crack the ſkulls of half the county, have inſtructed their repreſentatives to propoſe ſuch a law, the firſt day of the meeting of parliament: As for Magna Charta, they value it no more than they do Magna F——a; ſelf intereſt is their only charter; hence it is that there it not a *ſtaunch* patriot that has not changed his principles as often almoſt as his coat; his only maxim being ſteadily to oppoſe government, unleſs he is of ſufficient conſequence to be purchaſed; ſo that the only

only criterion of political principles in this country is ſolely deducible from the circumſtance of a man's being in or out of place: A lamentable conſideration, which, at ſome future (I hope very diſtant) period, muſt terminate in the utter ſubverſion of the liberties of this country; for hiſtorical experience evinces, that whenſoever the governed become more corrupt than the governors, there muſt be an end of liberty; and that a nation may arrive at ſuch a ſtate of degeneracy, as to become incapable of enjoying it. But to return; I ſhould be much obliged to your friend Mr. P. if he would reſtore thoſe M.S.S.

B. G. That we are in poſſeſſion of the M.S.S. you allude to, I confeſs; but I have ſeveral reaſons why I ſhould decline giving them up, which, I hope, will be ſatisfactory to you and your friend. 1ſt. My good friend *Peter*, as honeſt a man as ever breathed, is out of employment as a printer, and I have ſet my heart on giving him the printing of theſe works, which ſhall be executed faithfully, according to your and your friend's plan in every reſpect.

2dly.

2ly. Though I have not the pleaſure of knowing your friend; yet from a careful peruſal of the M.S.S. I am in love with the traits of his character therein exhibited. There appears to be ſomething in them ſo romantic and eccentrical, ſo wildly in the right, with ſo much liberality of principle, even when, according to the maxims of *ſneaking wordly wiſdom*, he is in the wrong; that he ſeems rather to be a *Spaniard* of the 8th century, than a *Briton* of the 18th; and as I have been an author for theſe 20 years, I wiſh to finiſh my literary career with ſome eclat, by giving theſe two works to the public; and then retire to an eſtate which has lately fallen to me, *kill my own mutton*, and enjoy "Otium cum dignitate."

F. G. I ſhall make a faithful report to my friend; but he is hot, irritable, and impatient; and peculiarly ſo at preſent, oppreſſed as he is by a load of unmeritedly accumulated woe, for which I know he would deem the *rack* a comfortable exchange.

B. G. I am heartily ſorry—*(a loud noiſe on the ſtairs, and a voice without)* Dammee, Phill,

I wonder you did not break your neck, inſtead of your ſhins.

Enter Drs. Thickneſſe, Freeman, and Tickell.

T. Here they be; I hae brought'n to ſpeak for theirſelves: This, gemmen, is my old friend Mr. *Gooſequill*; them there, friend *Gooſey*, are my partners, Drs. *Freeman* and *Tickell*.

B. G. The gentlemen do me a great deal of honour in viſiting my poor abode; but as this will be the laſt hour of my ſtay here, I hope I may hereafter receive them in a habitation more ſuitable to their merit and importance as *your* friends: It will, however, be right to announce in my turn: Sir *(to F. G.)* by what name ſhall I have the honour of introducing you to Dr. Thickneſſe's friends and himſelf?

F. G. I beg leave to decline the introduction.

B. G. As you pleaſe, Sir. This gentleman is my friend Mr. *Peter Paragraph*.

T. Damme, *Gooſey*, you won't hae the impre-

nce

prence for to go to traduce your *vale de ſham* to gemmen.

P. P. What do you mean by vale de ſham; I knows nough of French lingo for to gueſs that you ſuppoſe as how I be Mr. Gooſequill's lackey; I hae a great mind to gie ye a dowſe in the chops; I ben't his ſervant, I be his friend.

B. G. That you are, and have been, indeed, my *faithful* friend, the companion of my diſtreſs, and often my beſt monitor and counſellor; would to God, princes and miniſters were ſurrounded by ſuch: you are an honeſt man, "the nobleſt work of God;" and whilſt I have a ſhilling, you ſhall not want.

T. I haxes pardon, Maſter Paragraph.

P. P. Leaſt ſaid is ſooneſt mended, Maſter Thickneſſe; learn next time to keep your tongue within your teeth, till you knows who you talk to; ye ſees as how I be ſomebody, as I be 'Squire Gooſequill's friend.

Tick. But let us come to the point; I am told you have a M. S. copy of an Eſſay on Quackery, in which we are treated with great diſreſpect.

T. That

T. That a has, I'll be ſwore.

Fr. What d'ye ſay to that, Maſter Gooſequill, as I thinks ye be called; are gemmen of charakter to be treated in this here manner; I deſiſt that ye gie up that there thing.

B. G. This gentleman has been making a ſimilar claim; it cannot be the property of both; pray ſettle the buſineſs between you.

F. G. But pray, doctor, what univerſity had the honour of your inauguration?

Fr. Aberdeen.

B. G. Though ſome of the northern, and I fear the ſouthern univerſities, often confer degrees too lightly; I cannot conceive it poſſible that any men of literature could confer a diploma on a man, who being ignorant of his own language, muſt neceſſarily be ſo of every other: Was you not once a farrier in the iſland of Antigua?

Fr. What does that argefy; a *farrier* is a doctor; an't he?

B. G. In ſome ſort, I confeſs; and at leaſt as much ſo as a *cooper*. But what have you done with your family you left on the pariſh in that iſland? You now figure away,

as I am told, in your carriage; I hope you have put them on a reſpectable footing.

P. P. But how did ye get out the ſmut and the whales o' the hot irons out o' yer paws, to feel the ladies pulſes?

Fr. A never feels pulſes; I be a water caſter.

P. P. O ye be, be ye?

Fr. Come, come, no more o'yer palaver; gie us up the paper, a ſay, or we will ſue ye.

B. G. I care not what you do, provided you don't phyſick me.

F. G. Pray, doctor, *(to Freeman)* by what right do you ſo peremptorily demand the M. S?

Fr. Becauſe it's a libell againſt we.

F. G. That the law muſt determine, and there let it reſt for the preſent.

Tick. I find there is a patent preſcription of my Æther in that there book.

B. G. Moſt certainly.

Tick. Do you know the conſequence?

B. G. I do; and I ſhall deem it the moſt meritorious act of my life to be inſtrumental in expoſing the ignorance, the impudence,

dence, and the knavery of your whole fraternity; and this is my definitive anſwer.

[*Exeunt Quacks.*

F. G. You are a noble fellow, Mr. Gooſequill; and I ſhould think myſelf infinitely more honoured in your acquaintance, than in that of the firſt dignified ſcoundrel in the kingdom. [*Exeunt omnes.*

PREFACE.

THE ſecond edition of the Medical Cautions being nearly ſold off, it was deemed proper to republiſh, in this third edition, only thoſe Eſſays which, being moſt popular, would conſequently be moſt uſeful to the public.

Some additions have been made to the chapter on Faſhionable Diſeaſes; and the author has the pleaſure of knowing that the juſtice of his ſtrictures has not only been acknowledged by ſome of the profeſſion, but has afforded full conviction to ſeveral invalids.

It is with much ſatisfaction he underſtands that his ſecond Eſſay has induced ſeveral perſons to obviate the bad effects of hot and foul air, by adopting the expedients he propoſed; and he flatters himſelf, that the new facts and arguments which occur in this third edition, will contribute to extend the beneficial conſequences which muſt reſult from ſuch ſalutary regulations.

There

There was ſo intimate a connection between the ſubjects of the ſecond and third chapters, that the latter is now republiſhed.

The chapter addreſſed to Lady and Gentlemen Doctors having made an impreſſion on ſeveral perſons of underſtanding, it was thought, that another edition of it would have a beneficial tendency.

That the Eſſay on Empiriciſm has been of ſome uſe, appears from the alarm it has given to the Quacks, who, by anonymous * and avowed attacks, have manifeſted their apprehenſions that the author's ſtrictures might, eventually, make a due impreſſion on the public; and expoſe the ignorance, fraud, and impoſture of thoſe peſts of ſociety.

* A friend of the author's having read the firſt edition of this work, told him he certainly would be *ſtung* by ſome of theſe empirical *waſps*; but the manifold attacks made upon him by the anonymous letters, newſpaper ſquibs, pamphlets, and baſe but bungling incendiary artifices, of thoſe *dull illiterate knaves*, have only evinced them to be mere *drones*.

The brutal and *ſordid* artifice of one of thoſe vermin, a *hoary* aſſaſſin, to fix an indelible ſtigma on the character of the author of the Medical Cautions, by writing an incendiary letter, was happily detected; and though he eſcaped legal puniſhment, he richly merited the diſcipline of a horſe-pond, or a niche in the pillory.

It

It is the duty of every phyſician to diſcountenance empirical practice; not from the ſordid conſideration of its interfering with his profeſſional emolument; but from an entire conviction of the injury the public may ſuſtain, by confiding in, and employing, men who are totally ignorant of medical knowledge.

The author thinks himſelf peculiarly qualified for the taſk; having, for many years, taken much pains in detecting the ignorance and knavery of ſome of the moſt celebrated quacks;* and having alſo beſtowed conſider-

* A friend of the author's propoſes, that the biſhops, who are, by an old law, authoriſed to *examine* and licence medical practitioners, ſhould interpoſe, and extirpate theſe *medical heretics* the quacks; who, though they bid defiance to the ſtatute law, would not be able to evade the all-powerful graſp of the eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction: but ſhould their lordſhips decline a duty ſo worthy of them, he thinks the quacks might be tranſported to Botany Bay; as cheats and impoſtors would be very fit companions for rogues and felons; and to compenſate for the loſs of the medicine tax, he propoſes that each Gentlemen and Lady Doctor, of which he computes there may be, at leaſt, one million in the Britiſh dominions, ſhall take out licences annually at a guinea each; by which they will be qualified to preſcribe *kitchen phyſic only*; under a penalty, if they attempt to preſcribe medicine; and that by

able

able attention, and incured ſome expence, in analyſing their noſtrums.

The author has been led, by the nature of his plan, to make ſome farther animadverſions on a quack medicine taken notice of in the ſecond edition; this has produced an attack from the proprietor of the patent, in which it is alledged, he has been aſſiſted by ſome medical men, who have neither done any credit to themſelves, nor their profeſſion, by eſpouſing ſuch a cauſe.

He is exceedingly ſorry he has been obliged to engage the reader's attention, even for a moment, to any circumſtance which could be deemed perſonal: conſcious that no credit can be acquired by ſuch conteſts, it was with extreme reluctance he took any notice of the groveling, yet malignant, attacks of his antagoniſts; but it was in ſome meaſure unavoidable. Perſons of high rank, or exalted character, *may* decline the taſk; but thoſe who have no claim to diſtinction

ſuch a regulation the revenue would not only be augmented, but the *conſumption* of his Majeſty's liege ſubjects would be diminiſhed to the amount of many thouſands annually.

muſt,

muſt, negatively or poſitively, defend themſelves; otherwiſe ſilence implies acquieſcence under the imputation.

After the former edition of the Medical Cautions was printed off, the author had an opportunity of examining a copy of *Tickell*'s patent, ſtamped, and authenticated by the proper officer, upon which a few remarks ſhall be made in its proper place, after giving an exact copy of the patent preſcription from the proper office.

The author is informed, that his empirical opponents, and their abettors, have, as a *coup de grace*, induſtriouſly propagated a report, *that he is inſane*; and it is poſſible, that even his friends may ſuſpect, that all is not right with the man who could attempt the Herculean labour of cleaning the Augean ſtable of empiriciſm, or undertake the no leſs arduous taſk of reforming many other medical abuſes.

As he ſuſpects that the *Vir ſapiens, ſibique imperioſus*, is almoſt as rare a phœnomenon as a black ſwan, he will not attempt to vindicate himſelf from the allegation of the former, nor obviate the ſuſpicion of the latter;

latter; for if propriety or conſiſtency of conduct were to be admitted as the only criteria of ſanity of intellects, almoſt every page of hiſtory and biography, ancient and modern, would evince how difficult it would be for nations or individuals, the governing or the governed, to eſtabliſh an indiſputable claim to *even* a very moderate portion of intellectual acumen or conſiſtency: he may therefore ſay, with Horace,

> Pudor te malus urget,
> Inſanos qui inter vereare inſanus haberi.

Should it be enquired by what motives I could be induced to undertake ſo invidious and unavailing a taſk, as the publication of the preſent Eſſay; I reply, that I not only deemed it to be my duty as a phyſician; but have been incited thereto by reſentment: Some years ago a moſt valuable and reſpectable friend of mine put himſelf and his wife under the care of a German water-caſter. Their complaints were trivial, or perhaps totally imaginary; the lady died a victim to MEYERSBACK's ignorance; and her huſband, from a broken conſtitution, and a

broken heart, ſoon followed her. Beſide theſe inſtances, many others have occurred to me of the injurious, and often fatal, conſequences of empirical practice.

As few men have taken more pains in attempting to diſcover the origin, trace the progreſs, and detect the ignorance and knavery, of modern quacks, than myſelf; and as quackery has arrived to a truly alarming height, eſpecially in the Britiſh dominions, I thought I ſhould eſſentially ſerve my fellow ſubjects, by endeavouring to ſtem the torrent of this dangerous evil.

It may be alledged, that the following animadverſions are dictated by envy and jealouſy.

Independent in my circumſtances, and approaching the verge of life, I do moſt ſolemnly aver, that I have not advanced any thing concerning thoſe men or their noſtrums that does not admit of proof; and that my *ſole* motives for this publication are, a regard for the intereſts and welfare of the community, and the credit of that profeſſion of which I had *formerly* the honour of being a member:

When

When phyſicians, by laborious ſtudy, and at conſiderable expence, have qualified themſelves for the exerciſe of their profeſſion, it cannot be very agreeable to them to find their art ſo much degraded, as that the moſt illiterate of mankind (for ſuch quacks generally are) could be ſuppoſed capable of diſcharging the duties of it: For ſo far as regards emolument, I verily believe that phyſicians ſuffer little by empirical practice.

ESSAY IV.

On EMPIRICISM, *or* QUACKERY.

CHAP. I.

On the ORIGIN *of* QUACKERY.

Thus puffing Quacks ſome caitiff wretch procure
To ſwear the pill, or drop, has wrought a cure.

GOLDSMITH.

SI VULGUS DECIPI VULT DECIPIATUR.

THE term *Empiriciſm* is derived from a Greek word which ſignifies *experience*, the foundation of all ſcience, eſpecially of phyſick.

There was an ancient ſect of phyſicians who were termed *Empirics*, in contradiſtinction to the *Dogmatiſts*; but there is a moſt eſſential difference between thoſe *ancient ſages* and our *modern quacks*; for the former availed themſelves of accurate philoſophical *analogy* founded on experience; whereas the latter are ſo little accuſtomed to any kind of reaſoning, that they are generally deſtitute of common ſenſe.

Ancient

Ancient mythology repreſents *Æſculapius*, the God of Phyſick, as having three daughters, HYGEIA, JASO, and PANACEA; that is, health, cure, and univerſal remedy. Ignorant of thoſe philoſophical principles by which the two firſt are regulated, the quacks of all ages, unqualified to looſen the gordion knot of ſcience, were determined to cut it, and have therefore attached themſelves ſolely to the youngeſt daughter of the God; and for this reaſon all their remedies are univerſal and *infallible*. This mode of catching the eel of medical ſcience by the tail is exceedingly convenient; for it neither requires natural talents, nor acquired knowledge; groſs ignorance, conſummate impudence, and a total want of principle, being the only indiſpenſable requiſites for conſtituting a quack.

The origin of quackery is very ancient; for we find them ridiculed by an ancient Greek poet.*

* The celebrated dramatic poet, *Ariſtophanes*, terms theſe water-caſters σκατοφάγοι, a term which implies ſomething more indelicate than the Engliſh word. MEYERSBACK, having lately examined a patient of mine who is deeply conſumptive, declared that the diſeaſe was in the kidneys and *ſweet bread!*

It

It would be an unneceſſary, and indeed a diſguſting taſk, to trace empiriciſm from the earlieſt ages to the preſent time. I have already remarked, that though there was an ancient ſect of phyſicians termed empirics, yet this term was underſtood in a very different ſenſe from that of quack in our language; the former being only applied to diſtinguiſh one ſect of regular phyſicians from another.

The earlieſt ſource of quackery ſeems to have been an opinion entertained by the vulgar, and perhaps not very ſtrenuouſly diſcouraged by phyſicians, that there was ſomething myſterious and ſupernatural in the medical art. Hence the idea that the cure of diſeaſes was often effected by magical powers and aſtral influences; ſo that in the ages of barbariſm, prieſts, ſoothſayers, aſtrologers, and fortune-tellers, laid their claims to medical knowledge and practice.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The former Occupation of QUACKS.

EX QUOVIS LIGNO NON FIAT MEDICUS!!!

I SHALL proceed to ſhew that, from the former occupations of many of thoſe quacks, it was impoſſible they could have any medical knowledge, unleſs they acquired it by miraculous inſpiration, to which indeed only one of the preſent tribe has ſet up any pretenſion.*

Whilſt itinerant mountebanks were in faſhion; though the breed is almoſt extinct in this country; the merry-andrew generally ſucceeded his maſter, and from tumbler and buffoon was exalted to the dignity of doctor; when in the velvet coat and tye-wig he drew teeth, cut hare-lips, and diſpenſed his infallible remedies, *ſolely* for the benefit of his fellow ſubjects.

Several of thoſe *reſpectable* gentlemen became afterwards reſident doctors, eſpecially

* Dr. DE LOUTHERBURG: He was a celebrated ſcene painter.

in

in London; and to ſome of them, and their no leſs reſpectable ſucceſſors, the public is at this time indebted for ſome of our moſt celebrated noſtrums.

But many of thoſe empirical gentlemen had not even the advantages of a mountebank education; for ſome of *them* were tolerable ſurgeons, eſpecially the famous GREEN; whereas the greater part of the preſent race are totally deſtitute of any kind of education.

With reſpect to the employments of thoſe people before they commenced noſtrum-mongers:—The celebrated Dr. DEE, and his companion KELLY, pretended to frequent communication with demons, and the angels Michael, Raphael, Gabriel, and Uriel, the latter of whom not only communicated to them the philoſopher's ſtone, but infallible remedies for the cure of diſeaſes.

Notwithſtanding the noſtrum for making gold, DEE lived and died in great poverty. The angel's preſcription for the cure of his wife was a very curious one: it conſiſted of a cock pheaſant, pounded alive in a mortar, with amber, turpentine, and wine.

To

To the diſgrace of literature and ſcience, the works of this crazy enthuſiaſt were publiſhed, with a long prefatory vindication, by MERIC CAUSABON, D. D.

The celebrated WARD, whoſe remedies are now neglected, becauſe they are known, was a *footman*, and during his attendance on his maſter on the continent, obtained his noſtrums from the monks, who are almoſt all quacks: He was however a man of ſome genius and education, and very much ſuperior to the preſent race of quacks.

ROCK had been a porter; as was WALKER, the vender of the famous Jeſuits drops.

The celebrated electrico-magnetical GRAHAM, who lately made ſuch a noiſe in this credulous nation, exhibited on a mountebank ſtage in *America*; and, it is probable, ſerved previouſly in the office of zany.

MEYERSBACH,* who, availing himſelf of the credulity and cullibility of the good people of this kingdom, has acquired a fortune equal to that of a *German* prince, offered himſelf as a *rough-rider* to a riding-

* The ignorance and effrontery of this fellow has been properly expoſed by Dr. LETTSOM.

houſe in London, but being rejected, commenced doctor.

TURLINGTON was a broken maſter of a ſhip.

One FREEMAN, who annexes M. D. to his name, was a journeyman blackſmith, and is lately returned from one of our colonies, where, as an indented ſervant, he was employed to ſhoe and bleed horſes.*

* This fellow, the counter part of his brother LAST, has aſſumed the title of M. D. and has publiſhed ſtrictures on the firſt edition of this work. The author is very much diſpoſed to pay ſuch a degree of reſpect to every candid and liberal criticiſm, as either to adopt the correction, or aſſign his reaſons for adhering to his own opinions; but his friends have inſiſted that his antagoniſt is totally unworthy of notice or reply; alledging, "that his criticiſm favours much more "of the *Blackſmith's ſhop* than of the *lamp*, that it is im-"poſſible any Univerſity could, *after due examinations*, as "this man aſſerts, have granted him a medical degree; and "that his attack upon the author, whether critical or per-"ſonal, manifeſts ſo much groſs ignorance and flagrant "falſhood, that in the opinion of every man of common "ſenſe, he muſt be deemed to be ablolutely *felo de ſe*."

The preſent profeſſors of medicine in the Univerſity of Aberdeen have declared, that no ſuch perſon as *Stephen Freeman* has been graduated by them; and therefore there is juſt ground to believe that this illiterate quack has arrogated to himſelf a title to which he has no claim.

The authors of the Critical Review ſeem to give credit to this man's aſſertion, that his family was *not* ſubſiſted by a pa-

And

And I remember two fellows in Hampſhire, who gathered and diſpenſed their drugs under aſtral influences, one of them a *weaver*, the other a *cobler*, who being too idle to follow their employments, found their account in becoming doctors.

THICKNESSE was bred a cooper; but was ſucceſſively a mock clerk to the celebrated WHITFIELD; an officer of marines; gunner of Landguard Fort; and for many years author of dying ſpeeches and St. Giles's ballads, and rape and murder-monger to the St. James's Chronicle, and at laſt commenced gout doctor.

Some of theſe noſtrum-mongers have been appendages to the profeſſion; and broken apothecaries and chemiſts have quitted their proper callings for this idle trade.

Dr. JAMES, finding that book-making was a loſing buſineſs, derived more advantage in

riſh at Antigua: unimportant as the fact may be to the public, the author of the Medical Cautions, jealous of his reputation as a man of candour and truth, is permitted by a gentleman of rank of that country, now in England, to aſſert the fact; and he having been a member of the veſtry of that pariſh by which theſe people were long ſupported, will, if it be neceſſary, perſonally authenticate the truth of the allegation.

vending his celebrated powder and analeptic pills.

Sir JOHN HILL, alſo a voluminous author, had been a woollen-draper, but afterwards commenced doctor, and diſpenſed his tinctures and eſſences: But HILL was a man of ſome learning and genius; and indefatigable in his botanical purſuits; and all his quack remedies were at leaſt inoffenſive, though he certainly poſſeſſed more medical knowledge than the whole race of quacks put together.

And NORTON acquired a conſiderable fortune by his Maredant's drops.*

The newſpapers, two or three years ago, announced the death of one of theſe doctors, named SCOT, who had been much celebrated. This man, who could not procure bread as an apothecary, would ſoon have realized a large fortune as a quack. Availing himſelf, very artfully, of *faſhionable* prejudices, and in order that his pills might be adapted to all the faſhionable diſeaſes, he wrote a pamphlet

* The active and enterpriſing ſpirit of the other ſex has produced ſeveral female adventurers in this line, who are, *at leaſt*, as great proficients as their brethren, in the art of puffing off their noſtrums.

to

to prove that nervous and bilious diſeaſes were intimately connected with gout and with each other. As ſome ſort of reaſoning and argument is generally expected in medical diſſertations, he pilfered, without acknowledgment, an idea ſtarted thirty years ago by Dr. SHEBBEARE, viz. that the primary cauſe of all diſeaſes proceeds from exceſs or defect of the electric fire; the novelty and *verity* of which could not fail to recommend it to his faſhionable readers. Succeſſors, however, to this celebrated gout doctor, have ſtarted up like muſhrooms; and, like them, will probably ſoon *rot* into oblivion.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Non tamen telis vulnerat iſta argyrtarum colluvies, ſed Theriaca quadam magis perniciosa: Non pyrio, ſed pulvere neſcio quo exotico: Non globulis plumbeis, ſed pilulis æque lethalibus interfecit.

Dr. GARTH's *Orat. Harveyana.*

How QUACKS *have obtained their Noſtrums, and the Apologies uſed for employing them.*

IT comes next to be conſidered, from what ſources theſe very reſpectable doctors have derived their remedies; for of medical knowledge, WARD, JAMES, and HILL excepted, none of them poſſeſſed an atom; nor indeed had they capacity to attain it; being as ignorant of every kind of learning or ſcience as any old nurſe in the kingdom, as is evident from the nature and degree of their former employments.

When chemiſtry began to be cultivated in Germany, many chemical remedies were diſcovered and adopted in regular practice: The empirics however, having pilfered ſome of the

the moſt powerful from the regulars, ſold them as noſtrums; and *Paracelſus*, *Van Helmont*, and other quacks, by their vain and inſolent boaſtings, contributed very much to the extenſion of the evil.

Paracelſus boaſted that his *Elixir Proprietatis* would prolong life to any period beyond the ordinary age of man; yet he died at the age of 34. Some alchemiſts pretended that certain remedies would even renovate the body, and reſtore old age to all the vigour of youth; a pretence not more ridiculous than that of modern quacks, who, by their infallible ſpecifics, undertake to cure incurable diſeaſes. Though theſe noſtrum-mongers are not poſſeſſed of the *aurum potabile* of the celebrated Dr. ANTHONY, a Cambridge doctor of the laſt century, they are ſufficiently converſant in the art of tranſmuting national folly and credulity into *ſolid* gold.

For many ages all medical knowledge was conveyed in the dead languages only, a few books excepted, written by Arabian phyſicians in their native tongue; and I may venture to aſſert, that the tranſlation of thoſe works

works into modern languages, eſpecially the diſpenſatories of the different colleges of phyſicians, has contributed exceedingly to the encouragement of quackery; for from that ſource the moſt ignorant and worthleſs members of the community, having acquired a very ſuperficial knowledge of the moſt powerful remedies, found a more ready reſource for ſupplying their neceſſities, and even attaining affluence, by vending them as infallible noſtrums, than by following their proper vocations, of aſtrologers, almanack-makers, taylors, coblers, weavers, *carpenters*, *coopers*, *farriers*, porters, and footmen.

As witches and conjurers were wont to rob the dead of their fat, marrow, &c. for the purpoſe of incantations, ſome of them who undertook the cure of diſeaſes uſed the ſame extraordinary ingredients as charms and remedies; and hence they obtained a place in the preſcriptions of quacks; and as ſuperſtition always bears a due proportion to ignorance, thoſe who are ſo fond of ſwallowing quack noſtrums, know not but they may be compounded of the ſame exquiſite ingredients: From a patent preſcription of Low-

THER's nervous powder, it appears that human bone is one of the ingredients.

That theſe men, at leaſt moſt of them, have pilfered their noſtrums from regular practice, admits of the cleareſt proof. The ſpecifications of ſome of the moſt powerful of thoſe noſtrums, are to be found in the patent office; to which any perſon may have recourſe on paying the fees; and moſt of the others have been analyſed, and their compoſition diſcovered.

Another artifice employed by thoſe peſts of ſociety, is to attribute their noſtrums to ſome celebrated phyſician after his deceaſe; and the names of FOTHERGILL,* HUNTER, and SOLANDER, have been proſtituted to thoſe knaviſh purpoſes.

It is now well known, that WARD's medicines, except his paſte, which is a moſt abſurd compoſition, had long been in regular practice before he adopted them; that his white drop is a ſolution of ſublimate; his

* FREEMAN, fearing a detection of his impudent impoſition of a remedy preſcribed by this celebrated phyſician, has changed the name to FOTHERGELL; whereas no ſuch medical man ever exiſted.

red drop is a ſtronger antimonial wine than HUXHAM'S, or that of the diſpenſatories; and his purging powder, jalap and cremor tartar.

TURLINGTON'S *Balſam* is the Traumatic balſam of the ſhops. NORTON'S *Drops* are a diſguiſed ſolution of the ſublimate mercury, which was recommended by Baron VAN SWIETEN, phyſician to the late *Empreſs* of *Germany*. DAFFY'S *Elixir* is the tincture of ſena of the ſhops. ANDERSON'S *Pills* are aloes with oil of anniſeed. SPEEDIMAN'S *Pills*, extract of chamomile, aloes, and one or two other trifling ingredients. THICKNESSE'S, and, it is ſuppoſed, BARRETT'S *Pills* are extract of hemlock and wolf's bane; LOWTHER'S *Nervous Powder* is a farrago of nine or ten inſignificant ingredients, one of which is human ſkull; the moſt powerful of them is the black hellebore. STOUGHTON'S *Drops* are the ſtomachic tincture of the ſhops. GODFREY'S *Cordial*, an infuſion of ſaſafras, ſyrup, and opium. *Beaume de Vie* conſiſts of aloes, rhubarb, and ſalt of tartar, with a large proportion of liquorice juice to diſguiſe the other ingredients. CHITTICK'S

TICK's noſtrum is nothing more than ſoap lees. *Poudre Unique* is a combination of mercury and antimony: and NORRIS's and SPILSBURY's *Drops* are only the common antimonial wine diſguiſed.

VELNO's *Vegetable Syrup* is not vended by patent, but is found on analyſis to be a preparation of ſublimate mercury combined with mucilage of gum arabic, honey, and common ſyrup. The title therefore is an impoſition.

The celebrated *Ormſkirk* medicine was formerly called *Palmarius's* powder, from the phyſician who firſt preſcribed it; but the preſcription is not here inſerted: becauſe it has been found to be totally ineffectual for the cure of the bite of mad animals, and therefore the diſcovery of the Ormſkirk compoſition might lead thoſe perſons who rely upon it into a fatal error.

In ſhort, there are none of theſe noſtrums that have not been analyſed by ſkilful chemiſts; and, independent of ſome trivial additions, all thoſe of any power (a few trifling tinctures of vegetables, thoſe of HILL

particularly, excepted) are compoſitions of mercury, antimony, or opium.

There is another ſpecies of empiriciſm which merits notice, as very bad conſequences have ariſen from it.

The celebrated Mr. Boyle, who, though an eminent philoſopher, had adopted an error prevalent even among the medical men of that day; viz. that remedies had a ſpecific power, by which, independent of the general laws by which a cauſe produces a certain effect, a particular drug acted by a kind of elective attraction. Thus, *e.g.* one purge carried off bile or choler, another diſcharged phlegm, and ſo on, leaving every other humour undiſturbed, but that, to which it was adapted.

From a vague, and totally unfounded analogy, the reaſoning was extended to the power of particular remedies to cure certain diſeaſes abſolutely and infallibly. This great and good man, with the beſt intentions, contributed very much to encourage empirical practice, by publiſhing many preſcriptions for infallible remedies, communicated to him by a variety of perſons, who, either from ignorance

ignorance or deſign, vouched for their efficacy.

A very reſpectable clergyman,* ſome years ago, publiſhed a pamphlet on the ſame plan, in which he has given many preſcriptions which are dangerous, not only from their nature, but from the doſes in which they are directed to be taken; and it is very much to be doubted whether this truly good man may have ſaved more ſouls by his doctrine, or deſtroyed more lives by his remedies; nor can any man who has a juſt pretenſion to medical knowledge look into thoſe two publications, without being ſtruck with horror at the injudicious uſe which muſt often be made of thoſe edged tools: There is alſo a publication under the name of Dr. MARIOTTE, againſt which apothecaries ought to be particularly cautious, as a practical guide.

It would be a tedious and unprofitable taſk to enter into a more explicit detail of noſtrum-mongers and their remedies; I have however taken notice of ſome of the prin-

* Rev. JOHN WESLEY.

cipal;

cipal; and would add moreover, that as theſe quack medicines are ſold to retail dealers, ſome of them may remain on their hands for years, until they are totally ſpoiled, and yet they do not ſcruple to ſell them, ignorant or regardleſs as they are, whether they are ſound or not:—an inſtance of which occurred lately to a gentleman who purchaſed a quack remedy.

There was a time when phyſicians deemed it inconſiſtent with their dignity to conſent to the adminiſtration of quack remedies; but if, from a knowledge of their compoſition, or experience of their effects, we are aſſured of their ſafety and power, it would be unpardonable in a phyſician to reject any means that may be beneficial to his patient; if he or his friends require it.

Nor is the art degraded by ſuch condeſcenſion; for we only avail ourſelves of thoſe means which have been pilfered from regular practice, (as JAMES's Powder, and almoſt all other noſtrums of efficacy have been): but even were it otherwiſe, life and health ought not to be ſacrificed to idle punctilio; but every means uſed, and every effort

made,

made, that may conduce to the relief of the patient.*

With reſpect to teſtimonies in favour of noſtrums, many are obtained by perjury, and others are exaggerated by ignorance; and whilſt the ſuppoſed cures are publiſhed with much parade, the miſcarriages are concealed with induſtrious care.† That they may have

* A quack apothecary (TICKELL) of Bath has quoted this ſentence as an implied ſanction of quack noſtrums; but the implication is unjuſt. Phyſicians are often obliged to concede to the whims and prejudices of patients or their connections; and as the preparation of JAMES's Powder is now well known, humanity, and a ſenſe of duty, may induce them to *conſent* to the uſe of JAMES's Powder, if required; conſcious that they are better qualified than ignorant attendants to ſuperintend and regulate its operation; though there are certainly ſhop medicines equally ſafe and effectual.

† A notorious inſtance of this happened in the metropolis of a neighbouring county:—The vender of a celebrated quack remedy publiſhed in his paper the caſe of a perſon *ſuppoſed to be cured* by it, and annexed the name of a reſpectable clergyman as a witneſs and a voucher, without his privity or conſent; and, notwithſtanding the remonſtrance of this gentleman, and the declaration of two medical men of character, that they could indubitably prove that the *identical perſon*, and ſeveral others, were abſolutely *killed* by it, he not only refuſed to inſert the caſes and vouchers in his paper, but had the audacity to repeat the advertiſement.

been

been ſometimes beneficial, it would be uncandid to deny; as a powerful remedy, producing, by the violence of its operation, a great and ſudden change in the conſtitution, may either eradicate an inveterate diſeaſe, or ſubvert the powers of life: but I would ſubmit to the ſerious conſideration of my readers, whether, as regular practice is in poſſeſſion of as powerful means as any noſtrum whatever, it would not be more prudent to intruſt the adminiſtration of them to thoſe who, by a liberal and regular education, are *alone* qualified to render them equally ſafe and efficacious; or if they muſt have quack remedies, let them be taken under the eye and regulation of a perſon of ſkill.

It has been alledged, that regular practitioners, by a timid routine, or ſelfiſh procraſtination, deprive their patients of thoſe moſt powerful aids of which quacks have availed themſelves. If this charge be, in any reſpect, well grounded, it is more applicable to the paſt than preſent times; as a more bold and deciſive practice is now very generally adopted.

Some

Some of the abettors of theſe quacks (for very few of them have been able to vindicate themſelves) have inſinuated, that though deficient in the general principles of phyſic, they have acquired, by experience, not only a ſufficient knowledge of the operation of their noſtrums, but of the nature of the diſeaſes to which they are adapted.

I anſwer, that the medical art reſembles a circle, each point of which is ſo connected with the other, that in order to obtain an accurate knowledge of a part, the whole muſt be underſtood: And to ſhew the nature and extent of medical knowledge, and thoſe branches of learning and ſcience with which it has an intimate affinity, in my treatiſe on the difficulties of ſtudying medicine,* I have enumerated the qualifications neceſſary to form a ſkilful phyſician; and, upon a fair compariſon, I may truſt to the

* Natural Hiſtory of the Human Body. A careful peruſal of this work would not only amuſe, but inform all perſons who have any pretenſions to a poliſhed education. It has been tranſlated, and very generally read on the Continent.

candour of my readers to determine, what portion of that knowledge can be juſtly claimed by the herd of noſtrum-mongers.

There is ſo intimate a connection between all the branches of medicine, that none of them can be diſpenſed with in the education of a phyſician.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

PATENT *and other* RECEIPTS *for* QUACK DRUGS.

THE Crown has long aſſumed a right of granting patents for the benefit of ſuch perſons as ſhall make an uſeful diſcovery in any of the arts. As a reward for the inventor's ingenuity, he is entitled to the excluſive right of vending the fruits of his diſcovery, whether of a machine or a medicine, on condition that he ſhall depoſite a faithful account of the manner of conſtructing the machine, or of preparing the medicine, in the patent-office, that, after the expiration of the term, which is generally for fourteen years, the public at large may benefit thereby.

That the public may receive ſuch benefit, the diſcovery ought to be publiſhed in the Gazette, as being the only paper ſanctioned by government; and the patentee's excluſive right ought to ceaſe, the invention becom-

ing now the property of the public. This however, for evident reaſons, is never done; ſo that the inventor continues to enjoy the excluſive benefit.

Any perſon, however, may, on applying to the patent-office, have a copy of the inventor's ſpecification, as it is called, though at a very conſiderable expence.

With reſpect to medicines, which are the objects of the preſent enquiry, medical men who have applied to the patent-office, have perpetually been diſappointed; for they have always found that, inſtead of a new, and heretofore unknown, remedy, the patentees have conſtantly impoſed on the public, compoſitions of drugs which had long been in uſe in regular practice; only altered either in the proportion of the ingredients, or by ſome trifling additions for the mere purpoſe of diſguiſing it.

This groſs impoſition on the public is productive of a very eſſential evil; becauſe it throws into the hands of ignorant men a right to vend remedies of a very dangerous nature, of the powers of which they have no knowledge, and therefore cannot determine

mine in what diſeaſes they may be beneficial or hurtful.

More than thirty years ago parliament, from miſrepreſentation, granted five thouſand pounds for the diſcovery of a remedy which was ſuppoſed to diſſolve the ſtone: But the phyſician who was the voucher of its efficacy was either deceived himſelf, or deceived the legiſlature; for after declaring himſelf to be cured, there was found a large ſtone in his bladder, when the body was opened; and that diſguſting and trifling remedy is now fallen into total diſuſe.

But theſe men, to give an eclat to their noſtrums, often advertiſe them under the pretence of having a patent, when none have been obtained.

The champions of quacks tell us, that admitting the truth of the allegation, viz. that they are the ſame remedies as the regulars; yet they aver that they are differently prepared, and therefore new medicines.

But this is not true. Their chief remedies, as has been obſerved, are *mercury*, *antimony*, and *opium*.

Theſe

Theſe remedies have been tortured by chemiſts in every poſſible way; and have been preſcribed by phyſicians in every form that could be ſuggeſted by whim or ingenuity; but ſtill they remain mercury, antimony, and opium; and it is not ſo much the form which merits attention, as the adapting them to the diſeaſe, and giving them in ſafe, yet effectual doſes.

It can ſcarcely therefore become a queſtion with any thinking perſon (but the bulk of mankind do not think for themſelves) whether, as there can be nothing new invented by this ignorant race of men, it is moſt probable that they, or men of profeſſional knowledge, ſhall be beſt able to give remedies in the moſt advantageous forms; eſpecially as all the additions they make are mere trifles, ſolely for the purpoſe of diſguiſe; and, if they produce any change in them, it muſt always be for the worſe.

When medical men offer arguments againſt the uſe of quack remedies, they are always ſuppoſed to do ſo from intereſted motives: But the author of theſe ſheets, having retired from the practice of the profeſſion, moſt

moſt ſolemnly declares, as a reſponſible being, that in theſe remarks he is actuated ſolely by a ſincere deſire to ſerve his fellow creatures, and he can truly aſſert, that no man has taken more pains to inform himſelf concerning them; and ſhould deem himſelf an execrable villain were he to be guilty of intentional miſrepreſentation, in any one inſtance, even with reſpect to quack medicines.

I. James's Fever Powder.

The following is the patent preſcription, obtained from the office by a medical man* many years ago:—

"Take antimony, calcine it with a con-
"tinual protracted heat in a flat unglazed
"earthen veſſel; adding to it from time to

* The late Dr. Makittrick, of Wincheſter: The preſcription is preciſely the ſame with that given by Dr. Monro in the ſecond edition of the Diſſertation on Diſeaſes of the Army; with this difference only, that the former ſays, that it is impoſſible to determine the preciſe doſe of the medicine, except the proceſs is attended to, as it will be different according as the proceſs is conducted.

"time

" time a ſufficient quantity of any animal
" oil and ſalt well dephlegmated, then boil
" it in melted nitre for a conſiderable time,
" and ſeparate the powder from the nitre by
" diſſolving it in water.

" Then take quickſilver, make an amal-
" gama, with equal parts of martial regulus
" of antimony and pure ſilver, adding a
" proportionable quantity of ſal ammoniac;
" diſtil off the mercury by a retort into
" a glaſs receiver; then with this quickſilver
" make a freſh amalgama with the ſame in-
" gredients; diſtil again, and repeat this
" operation nine or ten times; then diſſolve
" this mercury in ſpirits of nitre, and put it
" into a glaſs retort and diſtil to dryneſs;
" calcine the caput mortuum, till it become
" of a gold colour; burn ſpirits of wine upon
" it, and keep it for uſe.

" The doſe of theſe medicines is uncer-
" tain, but in general thirty grains of the
" antimonial powder, and one grain of the
" mercurial, is a moderate doſe."

Signed and ſworn to by
ROB. JAMES, M. D.

A few

A few obſervations may be made on the above preſcription:

1ſt. Every chemiſt will allow, that the antimonial preparation is very unjudicious, and muſt be uncertain in its ſtrength, as all ſolid preparations of the reguline antimonials muſt be. If they meet with an acid in the ſtomach, they will often act violently even in ſmall doſes; and this alſo muſt be the caſe, if the nerves of the ſtomach are very delicate.

On the other hand, when the ſtomach is loaded with tough phlegm, it will ſcarcely act even when given in enormous doſes; an inſtance of which the late DUKE of CHANDOS mentioned to the author, as having happened to a poor man near his ſeat at Avington, to whom his Grace, from his wonted attention to the wants of the poor, had ordered it to be given.

The danger in theſe caſes is, leſt when theſe immenſe doſes, given repeatedly, begin to operate, they ſhould deſtroy the patient, as it is to be feared has happened too frequently.

2dly. This powder has not, for many years, been given according to the patent

preſcription. The ſpecification contains a very injudicious preparation of mercury, a portion of which the above-mentioned patentee mixed, at firſt, with the antimonial powder; but as it ſometimes brought on a ſalivation, when not given under his own direction, he totally omitted it for many years before he died, and thereby rendered the medicine leſs effectual in many caſes, eſpecially in inflammatory fevers.*

3*dly*. JAMES was ſo careleſs in doſing the medicine, which he left to the care of an old woman, that ſhe made them up without

* Dr. MONRO alledges, though not on his perſonal knowledge, that the powder has ſalivated even after JAMES had ſaid he omitted it: But A. doubts the truth of this, having preſcribed this powder in a colonial hoſpital more frequently than any other perſon, the patentee himſelf excepted; and never remarked any ſuch effect.

When JAMES was called in, and found the bowels had been emptied before, he gave what he called his *mild* powder, which was either calx of antimony or crabs eyes, or ſome other inſignificant thing, merely to ſecure the credit of the cure to his ſuppoſed powder, of which however not a grain had been given. But if he found that the patient had neither been vomited or purged ſoon before, he gave his *ſtrong* powder, as he called it; and if it did not operate as an emetic or a purge, he gave a doſe of Glauber or Rochelle ſalts.

weighing

weighing the medicine; hence it was that the difference was often ſome grains. This, as the medicine was directed to be given in the proportion of a quarter, half, or even a whole paper, might be of very ſerious conſequence.

4thly. Notwithſtanding JAMES boaſted of the great efficacy of his powders, he depended very little upon them in fevers; but being enthuſiaſtically fond of the bark, he poured it in on the firſt remiſſion in very large doſes, and ſometimes very injudiciouſly, ſo as to ſhorten in all probability thereby the life of the patient.

5thly. It certainly has been uſeful in the beginning of fevers of the inflammatory kind, eſpecially when the ſtomach and bowels have not been previouſly emptied: But Dr. MONRO has remarked preciſely ſimilar effects from four grains of a powder compoſed of eleven grains of the calx of antimony, and one grain of emetic tartar.

6thly. In low and putrid fevers, and in the ulcerated ſore throat, it has certainly hurried many patients to their graves, by bringing on a fatal purging; and indeed the emetic

tartar, or any other active antimonial, would be equally injurious. Dr. Goldsmith, though a medical man, certainly deſtroyed himſelf by the injudicious uſe of James's powders. But ſhould the relations or patients demand that a trial ſhould be made of it, contrary to the opinion of the attending phyſician, as has ſometimes happened to A. what is to be done in ſuch a caſe? If the phyſician is an honeſt and humane man, he will, if poſſible, ſave his patient, and therefore not refuſe to ſuperintend the operation.

James's powder, it is aſſerted, was known and adminiſtered in this country above one hundred and twenty years ago; but fell into diſuſe, and was again revived as Cornachine's powder. About the year 1746 Baron Schwanberg, a needy adventurer, communicated the preſcription to Dr. James, on certain conditions of co-partnerſhip, which not being fulfilled on the part of James, a law-ſuit was inſtituted againſt him in Weſtminſter-hall; and James attempted to evade the penalty, by alledging that he employed a different kind of antimony in the prepa-

ration:

ration: a plea which would not have been admitted by a jury of chemiſts.

It would however be illiberal and unjuſt to alledge, that, abſurd and unchemical as the preparation certainly is, it is not a remedy of power and efficacy; for from my own extenſive experience I know it to be ſo; but the ſame experience enables me to aſſert, that, from the nature of the compoſition, its operation is very uncertain, and that many of the other preparations of antimony are more ſafe and certain in their operation, and equally effectual.

The only circumſtance which eſtabliſhed the credit of this powder was the bold, yet judicious, practice of gradually increaſing the doſe according as the ſtomach became more habituated to its ſtimulus, or the urgency of the caſe required: and I cannot help expreſſing my ſurpriſe that this mode of adminiſtering active remedies has been ſo much neglected by regular practitioners; and I am well convinced from long experience, that if antimonial wine, emetic tartar, or even ipecacuanha, (a more ſafe and perhaps equally effectual remedy) had been ſo adminiſtered)

we ſhould not at this day have incurred th reproach of being obliged to reſign our patients to the operation of a quack remedy. It is however to be obſerved, that though much benefit will certainly reſult from increaſing the doſes of active remedies, if they are given by perſons of judgment; much miſchief will alſo be done, if thoſe who adminiſter them are unſkilful.

II. *Copy of* TICKELL'S PATENT ÆTHER,

Authenticated by Mr. BRIGSTOCK, Clerk of the Enrolments in Chancery.

" Take of highly rectified ſpirit of wine " ſix quarts, concentrated oil of vitriol ten " pounds; pour the ſpirit of wine into a " receiver; add the oil of vitriol gradually, " and when cold the mixture is to be put " into a bottle with a glaſs ſtopple, there to " remain ten days or a fortnight.

" Put three quarts of this mixture into a " large retort; lute on a capacious receiver; " diſtil with a degree of fire ſufficient to " keep the mixture in a boiling ſtate for

" twelve

" twelve hours. A pin ſhould be paſſed " through the luting occaſionally to diſcharge " over rarefied air.

" Next morning add three quarts more " of the mixture to what remains in the re- " tort; diſtil as before for twelve hours; " on the third morning add to the mixture " in the retort twelve ounces of highly rec- " tified ſpirit of wine, in which half an " ounce of the genuine oil of juniper or of " camphire have been diſſolved; continue " the diſtillation as before twelve hours, and " again on the fourth day for the ſame ſpace " of time; but the fire is to be regulated " with more caution, otherwiſe a burſting " of the glaſs will fruſtrate the operation.

" The produce of theſe ſeveral operations " is to be poured into a ſeparating funnel, " and the crude phlegm ſeparated from it, " when it is to be repeatedly edulcorated by " the *effuſion* (affuſion) of cold ſpring water.

" The receiver is now to be again luted " on, and the diſtillation to be continued " for the ſpace of twenty-four hours; by " which final operation the Oleum Polychreſ- " tum verum will be obtained, which is to

" be

" be ſeparated from the acid. Half an ounce " of this pure oil is to be added to 31 ounces " and a half of the pure ſpirit. And thus " is prepared the genuine Anodine Æthe- " rial Spirit, which may either remain in its " limpid ſtate, or be coloured by any of the " reſinous woods."

From this ſpecification it ſhould ſeem, 1*ſt*. that it undergoes four diſtillations, the deſcription of which ſavours more of empirical trick than of chemical ſkill; for two of them are, on every juſt chemical principle, unneceſſary; and the ablution of the acid by water, is leſs judicious and effectual than the addition of alcali.

2*dly*. Diſtillation is totally unneceſſary, if the æther is prepared in the moſt expeditious and œconomical manner; for the oils are ſoluble in æther, by ſimple mixture; and there is no doubt but T. adds them in a much larger proportion without diſtillation, as in the ſpecimen at the hoſpital.

3*dly*. The reader muſt perceive, on peruſing the firſt Appendix, with what preciſion the nature of this noſtrum, and its diſguiſing

ingredients

ingredients, had been previouſly aſcertained; inſomuch that even an examination of the patent cannot throw any new light on the ſubject. The error taken notice of by the Critical Reviewers in the firſt volume, reſpecting the oleum dulce, was merely typographical.

4*thly*. If allowance be made for the waſte of the oil of juniper, or of the camphor, which is added in the third diſtillation, its proportion to the æther will not really be more than 1 in 100: though it apparently conſtitutes 1 in 64; and the ſame obſervation is applicable to what T. in the true empirical cant, terms *oleum polychreſtum verum*, or the ſweet oil; and therefore neither of the additions can be of any importance in a medicine the doſe of which is a few drops only.

5*thly*. This noſtrum therefore is in no eſſential point different from that which Mr. T. communicated to Sir J. Banks.

The reſpectable authorities of profeſſors Cullen and Black will induce every candid reader to believe that neither Mr. T.'s liquor mineralis Hoffmani, nor his quack

æther, can, in any reſpect, have ſuperior powers to the æther of the ſhops; but that in truth they are inferior to it.

When the author read TICKELL's Xth caſe, his own experience in ſimilar caſes convinced him that he had been guilty of groſs miſrepreſentation. The boy has been examined by a very reſpectable and judicious medical man of Bath, who found him in a ſtate nearly bordering on idiotiſm, and was informed by the mother that he had from ſix to twelve fits daily; and could not be left a moment by himſelf: How different is this from TICKELL's report!

That gentleman alſo examined *Mary Moore*, the ſubject of caſe XI, and was informed that ſhe had had but one fit in ten days; and that the medicine had certainly been of uſe. Candour requires that juſtice ſhould be done to Mr. T. in every inſtance. It may be obſerved, however, that this was a recent caſe, and ſeems to be of that ſpecies which is termed hyſterico-epileptic, in which common æther is ſometimes of uſe as a palliative, and T.'s æther has hitherto been no more; but in genuine and inveterate epilepſy, ſuch as the boy's

boy's, Mr. T.'s noſtrum certainly will not ſucceed; and he who can diſcover what will —*erit magnus Apollo.*

The man who he alledged was cured of a conſumption by his æther, is cured effectually; for he died lately of that diſeaſe.

On a very careful and candid enquiry into the ſucceſs of Mr. T.'s remedy, it is probable that the number of caſes in which it has failed is nearly, if not fully, double of thoſe he has given to the public; and ſeveral of theſe unſucceſsful caſes are ſimilar to thoſe in which he deems his noſtrum to be *ſpecific* and *infallible*.

Every perſon, even of a moderate ſhare of chemical knowledge, muſt know that no art of TICKELL, or rather of Mr. WOLFE, can render his æther more pure or powerful than the common æther duly prepared, nor will any medical man of ſkill believe, that any other article of the materia medica is of ſuch ſuperior power, as that in ſo ſmall a doſe of the compound it can poſſibly increaſe the activity of the æther, but the reverſe.

Admitting the accuracy of Mr. TICKELL's caſe, his celebrated brother, GRAHAM, has

given a much greater number of ſtrong caſes of the powers of common æther; and I do, from experience, firmly believe, that it is a more powerful medicine than TICKELL's noſtrum.

If Mr. TICKELL had been candid, he would have given us the caſes in which his ſpecific failed; which probably are more numerous than thoſe in which it has ſucceeded. This has been proven ſince the laſt edition: A noble Lord, and ſeveral others, whom he aſſerts he cured, are ſince dead of the diſeaſe for which his noſtrum was adminiſtered.

With reſpect to its boaſted diuretic powers: beſides thoſe patients who took it at the hoſpital, ſeveral others have uſed it long without any ſuch effect. It is well known that cremor tartari, or a draught of cyder or water, have produced a moſt copious diureſis in dropſies, when the moſt powerful diuretics have failed; and yet in other caſes none of theſe have had the leaſt effect; and this, for reaſons obvious to every phyſician, muſt ever happen.

Now let us ſee what the other preparations of æther are, and we ſhall find that all of them

them are at leaſt equal to TICKELL's patent medicine, moſt of them ſuperior.

Dr. LEWIS's æther is, pure æther thirty ounces, oleum dulce three drams.

Dr. MORRIS, who was the firſt Engliſh chemiſt who publiſhed the method of preparing æther, uſed the proportion of ſpirit of wine three pounds, ol. vitriol three pounds ſix ounces; he uſed none of the oleum dulce; and remarks, that the addition of oil of roſemary, though it increaſes the quantity of the æther, it may be attended with pernicious conſequences.

The reader therefore ſhould obſerve, that the Doctor's remark ſhews that TICKELL, like all quacks, having no regard to the health or ſafety of the poor patients, adds oil of juniper or camphor, which are equally pernicious as the oil of roſemary, by increaſing the quantity of his æther; and hence probably the diſagreeable effects of this preparation on ſome of his patients, as will be ſeen preſently.

Dr. LEWIS's Hoffman's anodine mineral liquor is, rectified ſpirits half a pound, ol. vitriol half a pound.

New

New London Diſpenſatory directs, ſpirit of wine and ol. vitriol equal parts, and of the ætherial ſpirit thereby produced twenty-four ounces, and of oleum dulce three drams.

TICKELL's receipt in the London Medical Journal is, of pure æther twenty-nine ounces, ol. dulce one ounce.

But in the opinion of the moſt eminent chemiſts, the oils he adds in his patent receipt are either uſeleſs or pernicious.

The author has been favoured with the following account of the inefficacy or bad effects of T.'s æther from a medical gentleman at Bath :

" The caſes that have not ſucceeded, and " which have come within my immediate " knowledge, are the following :

" The boy in Horſe-ſtreet, mentioned in " his book as cured, whom I have not ſeen " for many months, very little better—epi- " leptic.

" A woman at Walcot, epileptic, not bet- " ter after five weeks trial.

" A lady between 50 and 60, an aſcites, " with ſhortneſs of breath, not better.

" A

" A gentleman, ſwelled to a conſiderable " degree, and very hypochondriac; leſſened " at firſt, but no better after a conſiderable " trial; cured by travelling on the continent " for a year.

" An old gentleman with ſwelled legs, and " great ſhortneſs of breath, very little, if " any, better, after a long trial; the æther " affected his head ſo much as to hurt his " ſenſes, and make him loſe himſelf for a " time, for which Mr. T. ordered iſſues, and " to perſevere with the æther. I have not " heard from this gentleman for many " months.

" Mrs. S. who took the æther ſeven weeks " for an aſcites, and not better, was ſeized " with violent giddineſſes, for which Mr. " T. ordered the acet. ſcill. to be mixed with " the æther.

" A lady about 30, with an irregular in- " termittent, extremely nervous, and little " uſe of her limbs, took 15 drops in a cam- " phor julep twice a day for two days, " which increaſed her heat ſo much on the " well day, and affected her bowels both

" day

" day and night with ſo great pain, that ſhe " could not be perſuaded to take any more.

" A young lady, epileptic, after a long " and fair trial, received no benefit."

The author has alſo received a letter from a Mr. HUNT of Loughbro', Leiceſterſhire, from which it will appear that TICKELL has practiſed all the knaviſh tricks of a quack.

" TICKELL's account of Dr. BICKHAM's " cure (ſays Mr. H.) is a ſtudied miſrepreſen- " tation, and when I declined to pay him any " compliments on the effects of his æther in " that caſe, he wrote me an anſwer very ex- " preſſive of his rage and diſappointment; " and afterwards, to my aſtoniſhment, had " the impudence to make uſe of my name " as a ſanction to his quackery."

III. GODBOLD's VEGETABLE BALSAM.

A genuine copy of the patent recipe, ſigned by NATHANIEL GODBOLD, and witneſſed by HENRY HORTH and J. ROBERTS, extracted from the Rolls of Chancery.

After

After the uſual preamble, " I, the ſaid " NATHANIEL GODBOLD, do hereby de- " ſcribe, aſcertain, and declare, that my ſaid " invention of making and preparing the " ſaid medicine, by me called GODBOLD's " Vegetable Balſam, for the cure of con- " ſumptions and diſeaſe in the lungs, is made " and prepared by, with, and from the fol- " lowing herbs, drugs, and gums: The " names of the herbs (from which the eſ- " ſence is extracted for compounding the " vegetable balſam) are the following, viz. " 1 Thiſtles, 2 Mallows, 3 Yarrow, 4 Plan- " ton, 5 Nettles, 6 Cowſlips, 7 Buers Paſ- " tory, 8 Aron Wake Robin, 9 Maidenhair, " 10 Egremony, 11 Peony, 12 Linaria, 13 En- " due, 14 Clemont, 15 Mandinwort, 16 Roſe- " mary, 17 Rue, 18 Gibrumbeth, 19 Ale- " coſt, 20 Featherfew, 21 Alkekengy, 22 An- " gelica Ringea, 23 Wormwood, 24 Tor- " mentil, 25 Sena, 26 Strawberries, 27 Red " Currants, 28 Black Currants, 29 Raſber- " ries, 30 Damiſons, 31 Capſicum, 32 Cice- " roy, 33 Elderberries, 34 Banberries, 35 " Garlick, 36 Mirabolans, 47 Elecampaigne, " 38 Betony, 39 Milfoil, 40 Anniſeeds, 41

" Tamarinds, and 42 Bays; the eſſences of
" all which ſaid herbs are extracted by diſ-
" tillation, and are all preſerved ſeparately
" and apart from each other in ſyrups, and
" are mixed with the following gums and
" drugs, viz. Gum Dragon, Gum Guaiacum,
" Gum Arabic, and Gum Canada. Theſe
" being diſſolved in double-diſtilled vinegar,
" with a quantity of ſtorax diſſolved in
" ſpirits of wine, and oil of cinnamon, it
" is bottled off, and kept full three years be-
" fore it is fit to be adminiſtered or proper
" to be taken as a medicine for the cure of
" conſumptions and diſeaſe in the lungs, or
" any aſthmatic complaint."

Remarks on the above Patent Preſcription.

1ſt. A copy of this patent recipe has been obtained at a conſiderable expence, as every one of them is; though, being the property of the public, every perſon has a right to inſpect them gratis.

2dly. As medical men, being botaniſts, may be ſuſpected of partiality, were they referred to, and as many women of education in this kingdom

kingdom are now become botaniſts, it may be more juſt to refer to them, or even to a common herb woman in Covent-Garden whether they ever knew or ſaw ſuch extreme ignorance reſpecting the names of plants, as this man has manifeſted. For, if a carpenter did not underſtand the names of his own tools, it could ſcarcely be expected that he ſhould underſtand the uſe of them; and therefore this miſcreant quack is perhaps, of all beings on the face of the earth, the moſt ignorant, even more ſo, if poſſible, than Maſter THICKNESSE himſelf, though he made a blunder of the ſame kind.

3*dly*. Moſt of the plants in this preſcription are well known to every apothecary's apprentice to be totally uſeleſs for any medical purpoſe whatever, and eſpecially in the manner in which he prepares them, by diſtillation, in which it is totally impoſſible that the diſtilled liquor can be preferable to common pump water. But even if they had any virtue, the diſtilled vinegar muſt, in many inſtances, deſtroy it.

4*thly*. The reader will be kind enough to caſt his eye over the following numbers, which

refer to particular plants, by which it will appear, that he has mentioned plants which no perſon, who has any knowledge of botany, can do any more than gueſs at, their real names being totally diſguiſed by his ignorance, viz. 7, 14, 15, 22, 32, 34.

5thly. Some of theſe plants are ſo contrary in their nature to others, that it is impoſſible they can be uſeful in the ſame diſeaſe.

6thly. In all patent recipes it is abſolutely neceſſary that the quantity of each ingredient be ſpecified, otherwiſe, after the expiration of the patent, the public would be as much in the dark reſpecting the nature of the compoſition, as if they had never known a ſingle ingredient in it; more eſpecially as ſeveral of theſe ingredients are rank poiſons, ſuch as the Alkekengi,* and the Bays, the latter of which is nearly allied to the Laurel-cherry,† lately uſed by a man to poiſon his brother-in-law, for which he was hanged; and by a medical man to deſtroy himſelf.

7thly. That it is totally impoſſible the ſame remedy ſhould be uſeful in the various kinds of aſthma, and in conſumptions; and

* Phyſalis Alkekengi.——Linn.

† Prunus Laurocerasus.——Linn.

therefore,

therefore, what is beneficial in the one, muſt be injurious in the other.

And laſtly, the author of the Medical Cautions, who publiſhes this treatiſe, is ſo well convinced, that the remedy, as it ſtands in the rolls of Chancery, never cured either a confirmed aſthma, or a confirmed conſumption, that if NATHANIEL GODBOLD will, upon oath, declare the quantities of the ſeveral ingredients he has given in, and ſwear alſo to the faithful adminiſtration of that and no other medicine, and allow two phyſicians of reputation, in the city of London, to attend the effects of his medicine from the beginning, he hereby binds and obliges himſelf to pay one thouſand pounds to the ſaid NATHANIEL GODBOLD, upon thoſe gentlemen declaring upon oath that the ſaid patient was cured of a confirmed aſthma or conſumption by his remedy; and finally, the public is warned againſt the uſe of this medicine, which muſt always be uſeleſs, and often deſtructive, in the caſes in which he recommends it; notwithſtanding ſome very reſpectable perſons, totally ignorant of diſeaſes or medicine, may, by a very culpable credulity,

credulity, have allowed their names to be proſtituted in teſtimony of cures performed by a wretched compoſition, which could not poſſibly cure the diſeaſes it is ſuppoſed to have removed.

It may be proper to make ſome remarks on ſome other quack noſtrums now well known.

Keyser's Pill

Is nothing elſe but a mercurius precipetatus per ſe, diſſolved in diſtilled vinegar, and made up into pills with manna; but it is not, in point of efficacy, equal to the grey mercurial powder now in uſe.

Lisbon Diet Drink.

" R. rad. ſarſaparil. Santal. alb. et rub. ſin-
" gulorum unc. iij. Glyceriz & Mezerei ſin-
" gul. unc. dimid. Ligni Rhodii. guaiaci. et ſaſ-
" ſafraſ. ſingul. unc. i. antimon. crudi, unc. ij.
" Miſce & infunde in aquæ puræ bullien-
" tis lib. x. per horas 24. & dein coque ad
" lib. v. colaturæ capiat æger a lib. i. iſs. ad
" lib. iv. quotidie."

It

It may here be remarked, that of this farrago the Guajacum, Sarſa, and Mezereon are the only uſeful ingredients; the proportion of the two former ought therefore to be increaſed; the latter is extremely acrid, and ſhould be uſed with caution. This celebrated drink ought always to be uſed either with, or after a full mercurial courſe. It may alſo, thus accompanied, be very effectual in moſt chronic diſeaſes of the eruptive kind.

The Montpelier Secret for curing the Lues Venerea.

Put the patient into a tepid bath for an hour twice a day, or if weak only once, or only every other day, for about 50 times before the uſe of mercury, the patient living on ſpare diet, and drinking little; then rub in a double quantity of well prepared mercurial ointment to that which is uſed to raiſe a ſalivation, and thus continue it daily for five or ſix weeks: It never ſalivates, but goes off by the ſkin and kidneys.

A ſtrong decoction of the ſumach root, and of the lobelia, deſcribed by Morison to be

be the Rapunculus Virginianus galeatus flore violaceo majore, have cured both the venereal diſeaſe and the yaws.

Velno's Vegetable Syrup

Has been analized, and found to be a ſolution of ſublimate, rubbed up with honey and mucilage of gum arabic.

When a phyſician hears of wonderful cures performed by a quack patent remedy, he is always diſappointed when, on obtaining a copy, he finds it to be a thing known to every apothecary's apprentice; or ſuch a collection of uſeleſs rubbiſh, as cannot avail more in the cure of a diſeaſe, than bread pills, ſheep's dung, or powder of poſt.

In all departments of life, quackery prevails. Hence we have *Imperial* quacks, (as the preſent Emperor has experienced to his coſt); *legiſlative* quacks, who tamper with political conſtitutions which they do not underſtand; philoſophical, ethical, critical, and religious quacks.

Much

Much of the eclat TICKELL's æther acquired proceeded, it is ſaid, from a juggling connivance between him and THICKNESSE, who having his rotten toothleſs gums ſcarified by TICKELL, the whole town was told he had been cured of a dangerous diſcharge of blood from the lungs, by the æther, which every phyſician knows muſt have been impoſſible.

Females are particularly cautioned againſt the uſe of THICKNESSE's hemlock pills; for we are told in the Philoſophical Tranſactions, No. 231, "that a certain woman having "eaten ſome roots of it among parſnips, "was immediately ſeized with raving mad-"neſs, *talked obſcenely*, and could not for-"bear dancing, and offered to exchange her "cow for a bag-pipe." She muſt therefore, from this predilection to the bag-pipe, have been either Iriſh or Scotch. What a terrible diſaſter would this be to a delicate lady, as it is probable her poſture and geſticulation muſt have been equally obſcene as her language!

It is very probable that the quacks ſtole many of their noſtrums from SLOANE's Hiſ-

tory of Jamaica; for he tells us, page 91, that whilſt he practiſed there he had many, which he afterwards divulged for the good of mankind: but what ſeemed to take moſt with the ladies was his *cinnamon water*. But, notwithſtanding his noſtrums, ſome of the Doctor's patients died; and he found it ſometimes difficult, though the perfection of a phyſician, for him to prevent the relations "from judging harſhly when the patient "died." None reconciled themſelves ſo eaſily as young heirs, and the buxom widows of old men.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The dangerous Conſequences of uſing QUACK REMEDIES.

Turn Diſeaſes to a Commodity.——FALSTAFF.

AS almoſt all the remedies made uſe of by quacks are ſo powerful that, if injudiciouſly taken, they muſt become rank poiſons; the purpoſe of this chapter is to demonſtrate the great danger of uſing them.

Science may be termed the knowledge of univerſals, or abſtract wiſdom; and *Art* is ſcience reduced to practice. Few even of the lower mechanical arts are deſtitute of ſcientific principles; how much more neceſſary therefore muſt they be to the practice of phyſic, in which we cannot ſafely take a ſingle ſtep without a ſcientific reference to cauſe and effect, in an almoſt infinite number of circumſtances; what havock therefore muſt the quack make who is totally ignorant of medical analogy!

1ſt. A diſeaſe cannot be cured unleſs its nature be known. The nature of ſome diſeaſes is ſo obſcure, that even the moſt ſkilful phyſician finds it difficult to diſcover it, notwithſtanding the advantage he enjoys of a regular education, and an opportunity of viſiting his patient as often as he thinks proper.

But the quack rarely ever ſees his patient, or, if he did, he is as incapable of knowing what his ailment is, as a cobler would be of knowing the cauſe of the irregularity, or ſtoppage, of the movements of a watch.

It is aſtoniſhing that medicine is the only art which is ſuppoſed to require no ſtudy or application; and yet all who employ quacks muſt be of that opinion, or they would not hazard their healths and lives by truſting to the moſt ignorant of mankind: They might as well employ a ſhoe-maker to build a houſe, or a bricklayer to make a pair of ſhoes; indeed the abſurdity would not be ſo great, becauſe infinitely leſs knowledge and ſkill is requiſite in either of thoſe caſes, than in the cure of a diſeaſe.

2dly. Phy-

2*dly*. Phyſicians are often obliged to adminiſter powerful remedies, and would certainly poiſon their patients, inſtead of curing them, did they not watch over the operation of them. But the phyſician knowing that there are certain ſymptoms which will be produced by thoſe remedies, they muſt be his only guide. He therefore viſits his patient frequently, enquires into theſe effects or ſymptoms. If none ſuch have appeared, he increaſes his doſe with caution, until they do; if the effects are too powerful, he leſſens the doſe, or omits it for a time, until thoſe effects ceaſe.

It often happens that from ſome peculiarity of conſtitution, a very ſmall doſe of a powerful medicine ſhall operate ſo ſeverely as to endanger the life of the patient. Many perſons have thus been deſtroyed by quack drugs; but dead men tell no tales; and whilſt the public is aſtoniſhed by accounts of patients they never cured, it is ignorant of the number of perſons they certainly killed.

Quacks have exultingly retorted upon phyſicians the charge of manſlaughter. Admitting

mitting the charge to be well founded, a patient can only be ſaid to have been killed who, under proper treatment, might have been cured; for it would be very unjuſt to charge either the phyſician or the quack with killing a patient who dies of an incurable diſeaſe. But the very ſuppoſition of patients being killed is a proof that there are degrees of ſkill in the medical art, and therefore it is ſo far from being conjectural, that the man who has the higheſt degree of ſkill muſt neceſſarily cure the greateſt proportion of curable diſeaſes.

But there is a circumſtance which merits very ſerious conſideration: There are ſome perſons who, from ſome peculiarity of conſtitution, cannot bear opium; others who are very dangerouſly affected by even ſmall doſes of mercury. Now it is well known, that two-thirds of quack medicines conſiſt of one or the other of theſe drugs, or rather poiſons. Even ſince A. has been in jail, he has been conſulted on ſeveral occaſions. His opinion was aſked concerning a lady of high rank. He recommended the uſe of opium; but was told it never agreed; and

and yet, if this lady were to take a quack noſtrum, it is ten to one but opium will be an ingredient.

But mercury is ſtill more an edged tool, and the quacks ſheet anchor. A. has known a perſon thrown into a dangerous ſalivation by two grains of calomel. Were ſuch a perſon to take a quack medicine, it is twenty to one that there is mercury in it. The patient is very ill in conſequence of taking this (to the patient a) poiſon. Where is the wretched quack reptile to be found, to remove the danger he has brought on? The fellow is probably in another quarter of the kingdom, or if he were even next door, he knows no more how to remove the bad effects, than the cobler who ſoles ſhoes at the next ſtall. Thus it is that thouſands are annually ſacrificed to the moſt abſurd and ridiculous infatuation.

Allowing this argument to be juſt, it may be aſked, who is moſt likely to cure the greateſt proportion of patients, or kill the leaſt, the phyſician who has been for years engaged in the ſtudy and practice of a very difficult art, or the quack, who is ſo far from

from having ſtudied it, that he does not even know the names of his tools,* and who may yeſterday have been a cooper, and to-morrow a doctor?

It may be aſked, if quacks are ſo totally ignorant, how happens it that they cure any patients? The anſwer is ready: If you put a ſword into the hand of a madman, blind-fold him, and ſet him looſe in a croud, it is more than an even chance that he kills or wounds ſome unfortunate perſons within his reach. So the quack, poſſeſſed of one powerful drug, which he tells you will cure a hundred diſeaſes, it would indeed be wonderful if it does not accidentally cure ſome of them, though it may either deſtroy, or be of no benefit, to the greater number of thoſe who uſe it. If phyſicians could purſue the practice of phyſic with as much ſafety and ſucceſs, without what is termed a medical education, they have employed their time

* That blundering blockhead THICKNESSE does not know that cicuta and hemlock are the ſame plant, though the hemlock is one of the drugs he uſes; and he confounds the hemlock with the hellebore, with as much propriety as he might his quondam tool the *adze* with a hand-ſaw.

and

and money to very little purpoſe: But to prove that medical education is neceſſary, a familiar inſtance may be employed.

A watch-maker ought to know the mechaniſm of that curious inſtrument a watch, otherwiſe he cannot rectify its defects; ſo ought the phyſician the ſtructure of the human body; therefore *anatomy* is indiſpenſably neceſſary: Do quacks ever ſtudy anatomy? The watch-maker ought to know the ſize of every part of the machine: This is adequate to the *phyſiology*, or that branch of knowledge reſpecting the animal frame, by which the phyſician knows the functions or offices of the ſeveral organs, and the relation they bear to each other, and alſo all differences which ariſe from age, ſex, conſtitution, and way of life, ſo that every perſon may be ſaid to have a particular kind or degree of health. If the quack is not an anatomiſt, he cannot be a phyſiologiſt.—The watch-maker, on inſpecting a watch which goes irregularly, or whoſe movements are ſtopped, ought to determine preciſely what is the cauſe of its diſeaſe: So the phyſician ſtudies the pathology and noſology of the human

body, or the general cauſes of diſeaſe, and the nature of particular diſeaſes. Does the quack know any thing of theſe branches? He does not even know what they mean; they are Greek terms, and the quack knows not even his own language.

The watch-maker muſt know the means of curing the defects of the machine; this is analogous to the ſtudy of the materia medica, chemiſtry, and pharmacy, ſo eſſentially neceſſary to a phyſician. The quack has indeed a particular noſtrum; but of the nature and operation of its ingredients he is totally ignorant. He has had it perhaps from his grandmother; or he has ſtolen it from a diſpenſatory. But were he even to know all its qualities, that would avail him little, becauſe there is ſo intimate an affinity between all the branches of medicine, that an ignorance of any one branch muſt create a deficiency in all the others: What, then can be ſaid of the quack who is ignorant of every branch? As it is of the utmoſt importance that this matter be well underſtood, becauſe it may contribute to ſave the lives

lives of thouſands, a familiar example ſhall be laid before the intelligent reader.

A perſon is ſeized with a *cough*, and there are twenty quack noſtrums, ſtolen from the regulars, which we are told will infallibly cure it; and were there only one kind of cough, it is poſſible that one or other of theſe might be of uſe; but as there is ſuch a variety of this *ſymptom*, for it cannot be called a diſeaſe, depending on different, and even oppoſite cauſes, it is evident that what would be beneficial in one, would be injurious in another.*

If a ſkilful phyſician be employed, what are the ſteps he would take to relieve his patient? He muſt firſt know the cauſe of this ſymptom.

From *anatomy* he knows the ſtructure of the lungs, which being, as he is taught by

* Tickell, the Bath quack, in his firſt advertiſements of his noſtrum æther, declared that it cures all diſeaſes of the ſtomach; but the author of the Medical Cautions having expoſed the ignorance of this quack, and the abſurdity of the aſſertion, the diſeaſes of the ſtomach being as oppoſite in their nature as chalk and cheeſe, he changed his tone.—The patent receipt for this æther has been given in a former chapter.

phyſiology, one of the organs of breathing, they muſt, either directly or indirectly, be affected by cough, which always diſturbs the breathing.

But as he proceeds in his enquiry, as there are many cauſes of cough, he may find much difficulty in fixing on the right cauſe; for it may be a fault of the lungs themſelves, either from inflammation, conſumption, aſthma, or rheumatiſm, &c. it may be owing to gouty or other fluctuating matter falling on the lungs, or it may be what is commonly called nervous; but he knows that cough may alſo proceed from a fault of ſome other organs, whilſt the lungs are free from any complaint: As from ſome diſorder of the upper part of the wind-pipe, throat, ſtomach, bowels, &c. from dropſy of the breaſt, cutting of teeth, worms, &c.

If he is ſtill uncertain, he conſiders the age, habit of body, and mode of life, together with the preſent ſtate of the weather, and to what diſeaſes the patient was formerly ſubject; as an enquiry into all theſe circumſtances may aſſiſt him.

Having

Having determined the nature of the diſeaſe, he proceeds to form, from this circumſtance, an accurate idea of what will be the iſſue; whether, for inſtance, the diſeaſe is curable or incurable; (quacks know nothing of incurable diſeaſes); whether it will be rapid or ſlow in its progreſs; and whether it will end in perfect recovery, or in another diſeaſe.

This branch of medicine, termed *prognoſtic*, is a moſt eſſential requiſite, and diſtinguiſhes the ſkilful phyſician from the ignorant quack, who never can form a proper judgment of the event, becauſe he is deſtitute of the neceſſary principles of this art; and yet it is impoſſible he can cure the diſeaſe without it, unleſs by chance.

The phyſician, from the conſideration of all the preceding circumſtances, taken ſeparately and together, forms his plan of cure; but what plan can the quack form? The phyſician runs over in his mind all the different claſſes of remedies, and chuſes thoſe that are fitteſt for his purpoſe; the quack has but one ſolitary remedy. The phyſician watches daily over the effects of his remedies,

dies, increaſes or leſſens their doſes, or even changes them, as circumſtances ſhall require. From their effects he may acquire a more correct knowledge of the diſeaſe; or if it ſhould change its form, or new ſymptoms ariſe, he changes his plan accordingly.

Does not the diſcerning reader ſee the impoſſibility of the quack's ability to make any uſe of any of theſe indiſpenſably neceſſary reſources; ignorant, perplexed, and confounded, if any new change ſhould ariſe, he neither knows the cauſe of it, or how to remedy it, eſpecially if it ſhould ariſe from the injudicious uſe of his only noſtrum; for he knows nothing elſe that will remedy it.

In proof of what is here alledged, a few inſtances, out of many more, ſhall be mentioned.

A wealthy Wiltſhire farmer, contrary to the author's deſire, applied to CHITTICK. His ſoap lees threw him into a putrid fever, for which this wretched quack bled him, and he returned to his own houſe juſt time enough to breathe his laſt. It is evident that this fellow knew not the effects of his

own

own noſtrum, otherwiſe he would not have continued it; and the only means he uſed to remove its dangerous effects, was the moſt improper he could poſſibly think of, and therefore haſtened his death.

MEYERSBACH undertook the cure of a celebrated city magiſtrate and his wife. He put them upon a profuſe uſe of lemon juice, and ſpare diet, with the uſe of ſome of his dangerous noſtrums. Though an apothecary's apprentice could have diſcerned that he was undermining the powers of life, he perſevered: She was ſuddenly deſtroyed, and the huſband died of the effects of a broken conſtitution.

GODBOLD'S *Balſam* has been trumpeted forth as an infallible cure of every kind or degree of conſumption. In no one inſtance of real conſumption hath this drug ever been of uſe, ſo far as the author has remarked; in ſome it exaſperated all the ſymptoms, and ſhortened the patient's life. Even in a common cough, which was ignorantly deemed a conſumption, it brought on an alarming ſhortneſs of breath, which, together with the cough,

cough, were cured by vomits and a doſe or two of mercury.

Were I to enumerate all the inſtances, within my own knowledge, of the dangerous and fatal effects of a miſapplication of the moſt powerful of theſe noſtrums, the detail would be almoſt incredible: a few inſtances may ſuffice.

JAMES's *Powder*, though confeſſedly beneficial in certain ſtages of inflammatory diſeaſes, has, not unfrequently, vomited, purged, or ſweated to death, perſons labouring under low, malignant, and putrid fevers, who might have been ſaved by a liberal uſe of bark, ſnake-root, and wine.

The celebrated Dr. GOLDSMITH was deſtroyed by an injudicious uſe of JAMES's *Powder*; and notwithſtanding JAMES's aſſertion, that it had been found beneficial in the malignant yellow fever of hot climates, the reverſe is undoubtedly true.

The habit of taking JAMES's *Analeptic Pills*, ſince *bilious* diſeaſes have become *faſhionable*, has irreparably injured many conſtitutions, by creating a neceſſity for the frequent uſe of purges, which, in moſt of the caſes in which they

they are uſed, are not much leſs deleterious than the moſt virulent poiſons.

TURLINGTON'S *Drops*, given imprudently in colics, have brought on fatal inflammation of the bowels and kidnies. How many unhappy infants have been lulled into fatal ſleep by GODFREY'S *Cordial!* and how many perſons have been thrown into dangerous ſalivations by MAREDANT'S *Drops!*

From what has been ſaid, it is to be hoped that the intelligent reader will acknowledge the juſtice of the preceding and the following remarks; and pay ſome regard to the candid remonſtrances of a perſon who has retired from the practice of his profeſſion, and can have no other motive than the benefit of his fellow ſubjects; and who, during a courſe of more than forty years extenſive practice, has had manifold occaſions of deploring the fatal conſequences of confiding in the moſt ignorant, and the moſt knaviſh of mankind.

The truth of the following inferences, therefore, muſt be admitted:

1*ſt.* That the practice of phyſic requires extenſive knowledge, and much ſagacity.

2*dly*. That though the moſt ſkilful may err, *they only* can be qualified to correct their own errors, by attentive obſervation, and cloſe reaſoning, whilſt the quack is neither capable of either diſcerning or rectifying his own blunders, totally deficient as he muſt be in reſpect to every principle, on which he can either reaſon or judge.

3*dly*. That as quacks are totally ignorant of every branch of medical education, the more powerful their remedies, the greater the miſchief which may ariſe from them in unſkilful hands.

4*thly*. That, as the patients who uſe quack medicines, are equally ignorant of their own diſeaſes and conſtitutions, they cannot make uſe of them without extreme hazard; and therefore that thouſands have paid the penalty of their credulity and raſhneſs, by ruined health, or premature death.

CHAP. VI.

PUNISHMENT *of* QUACKS.

THE legiſlature of this kingdom, convinced of the deſtructive conſequences of empirical practice, has enacted laws for the prevention of it; and at certain periods, quacks have been puniſhed with ſeverity, and peculiar marks of ignominy; but they have, of late years, become unuſually bold and inſolent, partly from the ſordid and ſhameful practice of granting them patents; and partly in conſequence of the medicine act; inſomuch, that one of them, in a pamphlet he lately publiſhed,† aſſerts, that he and his brethren

† Strictures on *Adair*'s Medical Cautions, by S. *Freeman*, M. D.

practiſe under royal and parliamentary authority.*

But this cannot be the caſe, becauſe prerogative in this country cannot ſuperſede the laws of the land, and the old law is not repealed; therefore, by exempting medicines employed in regular practice from taxation, the legiſlature has manifeſtly marked the quacks as illegal intruders: and as Parliament might not chuſe to interfere directly with that branch of prerogative, by which patents are granted, ſometimes for very good

* It has been alledged, by quacks and their abettors, that they cure perſons who have been given up by the regulars. The allegation is not totally deſtitute of truth; and indeed the ſucceſs of empiriciſm may, in ſome degree, be attributed to the indolence, timidity, or injudicious deſpondency, of regular practitioners; who, being diſappointed of their expectations from the common routine of practice, are either too indolent, or too timid, to avail themſelves of ſuch expedients as ſhall be adequate to the ſingularity or urgency of the caſe; and by precipitantly declaring patients to be incurable, before they have made every poſſible effort, force them to have recourſe to empirics, whoſe temerity being equal to their ignorance of conſequences, they *ſometimes* ſucceed by a bold uſe of remedies, which, *being pilfered from regular practice*, might certainly be more ſafely and ſucceſsfully employed by men of ſkill.

purpoſes;

purpoſes; they deemed it more eligible to convert the *miſapplication* of that power in favour of quacks, into a beneficial increaſe of the revenue. But "none (as the late Lord "*Cheſterfield* obſerved on the gin act) ever "heard of a tax on theft or burglary, be- "cauſe a tax implies a licence;" for the ſame reaſon, quackery, being a dangerous evil, ſhould not have been taxed, but abſolutely prohibited under the moſt ſevere penalties; for vice ought not to be tolerated in a good government, but rigorouſly ſuppreſſed.

But if the college of phyſicians had, in conſequence of the authority veſted in them, puniſhed theſe interlopers, quack medicines could not now have been an object of taxation. The practice of medicine in this kingdom is on a moſt miſerable footing; and nothing but a thorough reformation of it can remedy the manifold evils which reſult from its preſent ſtate; nor can there be an object of greater political magnitude, or more worthy of the interpoſition of the legiſlature, than the eſtabliſhment of ſuch regulations as, by confining each department of medicine

to

to its proper province, may effectually eradicate empiricism.

That this is practicable is manifest from the effects of the wise regulations established by that great princess the *Empress of Russia*; by which quackery has been totally annihilated in that most extensive empire; and it may justly be affirmed, that there are more quacks in *England* than in all the rest of Europe.

Divinity, law, and physic, are justly deemed *learned* professions, and legislative authority has limited the *regular* exercise of those professions to such persons *only* as are qualified by a regular education. But though the benign spirit of toleration has *permitted* religious empiricism, and *folly has countenanced medical quackery*, the courts of Westminster have wisely excluded *ignorance* from the bar.

But though no man of common sense would rely on an *enthusiastic cobler* for instruction concerning his moral and religious duties; or employ a *taylor* to defend his property in Westminster-hall; yet, *strange infatuation!* many persons, not destitute of common

common ſenſe in other reſpects, daily truſt their lives and healths to *miſcreant noſtrum-mongers*, who are as little qualified to practiſe phyſic, as a cobler is to preach, or a taylor to plead a cauſe.

But as it may be deemed an act of injuſtice to any man who claims the merit of an invention, to deprive him of the reward of his ingenuity, I would propoſe, that every perſon who has invented an uſeful remedy ſhould, on oath, deliver the preſcription to three members of the colleges of phyſicians of Britain or Ireland, appointed by their reſpective legiſlatures, and that, after a fair trial of its efficacy, a reward be voted by parliament.

There is nothing novel in the propoſition; as ſomething ſimilar was done in the caſe of Mrs. Stevens's medicines.

Or ſhould it be alledged, that phyſicians may not report candidly on the reſult, ſome members of the Royal Society might be joined with the medical men, as has been very judiciouſly directed by the French king in the caſe of animal magnetiſm.

If ſuch a regulation ſhould be adopted, it would be neceſſary to ſuppreſs the noſtrum-

mongers,

mongers, by enforcing, with rigour, all the laws enacted for that purpoſe; and ſhould the other regulations which I ſhall take notice of, be carried into execution, I am firmly perſuaded, that many of the moſt valuable members of the community, now annually loſt, would be ſaved to their families, and to the great emolument of the nation.

The legiſlators in almoſt every civilized ſociety have conſidered quacks as peſts; and have therefore enacted penal laws for the ſuppreſſion of quackery.

The colleges of phyſicians were inſtituted in different kingdoms of Europe, to examine all perſons who undertook the practice of the art, inſpect all drugs in the apothecaries ſhops, and deſtroy ſuch as were unfit; and there can be no doubt but their power extended to the examination of noſtrums; and on their report, the venders were ſubject to ſevere penalties.

In the reign of James I. an order of council, grounded on a former law, was iſſued for the apprehenſion of all quacks, in order to their being examined by the cenſors of

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the college of phyſicians. On that occaſion ſeveral mountebanks, water-caſters, ague-charmers, and venders of noſtrums, were fined, impriſoned, and baniſhed.

Many of theſe wretches aſſumed the character of Conjurers; and in RYMER's Fœdera, vol. 16, p. 168, there is a pardon granted by James the Firſt to one SIMON READ, Profeſſor of Phyſic, who was indicted for practiſing the black art, by the invocation of evil ſpirits, for the purpoſe of diſcovering the perſon who ſtole a ſum of money; and theſe fellows ſometimes inſinuated, that the excellence of their remedies depended much on their communication with evil ſpirits. This READ, and one JENKINS, had ſtood ſuit ſix years before with the College of Phyſicians, and were caſt for practiſing without licence from the College.

Another of thoſe fellows, named doctor LAMB, a Conjurer and a Bawd, was convicted of a rape committed on one of his patients: It is ſuſpected, that ſome of the preſent race of quacks keep apartments for the purpoſe of aſſignation; and a fellow, a noted water-caſter, who, though an alien, lately pur-

chaſed an eſtate here, is ſuppoſed to have acquired much of his wealth by this very reſpectable employment.

Having repeatedly ſmarted for a direct violation of the laws, they have endeavoured of late years to evade it, by availing themſelves of a power veſted in the crown of granting patents for uſeful inventions. This has, by the ſordid avarice of the officers, been ſhamefully abuſed; for it may be clearly proved, that, with reſpect to noſtrum venders, few, if any, of their medicines could be deemed inventions, though they were obliged to annex an oath to their ſpecifications. Of thoſe which have been ſold without the ſanction of a patent, (as well as thoſe which have) it has been found, by chemical analyſis, that the moſt powerful are diſpenſatory medicines, diſguiſed by ſome trifling additions; whilſt others have been found to conſiſt of the moſt inſignificant ingredients, as pith of bread, brick-duſt, ſheep's-dung, &c. or, the moſt diſguſting, as the human ſkull, fat, placenta, &c. the venders depending for ſucceſs

ceſs on the ſtrength of the patient's imagination, and the livelineſs of their faith.*

Though ſuperſtitious credulity is not ſo prevalent in this, as in former ages, it is however far from being extinguiſhed, as is evident from a recent inſtance.

The impudent impoſture of a *German* quack, who lately pretended to cure diſeaſes by animal magnetiſm,† induced the French king to iſſue an arret, which, if duly obeyed, as it probably will be in a deſpotic govern-

* The various pretenſions and impoſtures of quacks afford an irrefragable proof of the extreme credulity of the Engliſh nation. In the laſt century the famous Sir KENELM DIGBY pretended to have diſcovered a ſympathetic remedy, which cured wounds *ſolely* by rubbing it on the inſtrument which inflicted it.—Another quack of that period invented pills to ſecure the chaſtity of wives; and a reſtorative broth for the benefit of aged huſbands; and there is much reaſon to regret that the *invaluable* preſcriptions have fallen into diſuſe in this age of *matrimonial* infidelity.

Whilſt other great men depend on contemporaries or poſterity for the celebration of their worth, the quack doctor is his own hiſtorian, and publiſhes in every pamphlet and newſpaper, caſes of cures *never* performed, and copies of affidavits never ſworn to; whilſt the great and ſmall vulgar give them entire credit for their ſkill, their candour, and their veracity, all of which are equally reſpectable.

† This is only a revival of an impoſition of one GREATRIX, the Iriſh ſtroaker, who impoſed upon the credulity of the celebrated Mr. BOYLE.

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ment, muſt effectually ſuppreſs quackery in that kingdom.*

* Since the publication of the former edition, ſome of MESMER's magnetic diſciples have appeared in this kingdom. A brazier, at Wincheſter, one MALKIN, determined to have ſeveral ſtrings to his bow, made a journey to London to purchaſe the magnetic art. Having concerted meaſures with his wife, they contrived an expedient to evince the *miraculous* power of his art; and whilſt he remained in London, ſhe was, in the preſence of ſeveral of her companions, affected, in a very extraordinary manner, by his ſympathetic influence. This was ſufficient to eſtabliſh his credit; patients crouded to him from every quarter, and wonderful effects were attributed to his art, even by ſome perſons whoſe education and rank in life ought to have rendered them leſs ſuſceptible of impoſition.

A learned and ingenious clergyman of that city, however, aſſured me that, upon a very minute enquiry, he could not diſcover that a ſingle inſtance of relief or cure could be authenticated; and laſt ſummer I attended a patient who had been three weeks under this Brazier's care, and who returned ſo ill as to be now attended by two phyſicians.

The report of the Commiſſioners, of whom Dr. FRANKLIN is one, publiſhed by order of the *French* king, proves irrefragably that the whole is a groſs impoſition; and though a depraved imagination might ſometimes be ſo worked upon by the *German* juggler and his pupils, as to produce *even* convulſions, yet ſuch effects were not the reſult of any medical power, and might be dangerous and even fatal.

Nothing more will be neceſſary to deſtroy the credit of this new ſpecies of quackery with the learned and intelligent, than the peruſal of the very candid report, which does great honour to the Commiſſioners; ſeveral of whom, not being medical men, could have no motive but the love of truth; and I am convinced that if other ſpecies of quackery were diſpaſſionately examined by learned men, not of the faculty, the futility